Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-065 *4 April 1990*

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Central American Presidential Summit Continues

Ortega Delivers Closing Speech

PA0404044190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2321 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Speech by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at closing ceremony of Central American presidential summit in Montelimar, Nicaragua—live]

[Text] The Central American presidents met in January 1986 in Guatemala City during the inauguration of President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo. We supported President Cerezo's initiative to meet, not only because of protocol at the inauguration, but to have the Central American presidents meet to discuss the problems that had been separating and dividing us and that had been threatening the entire region with a disaster. We would meet in spite of and against the will of those who were determined to bring bloodshed to the Central American region. We agreed with and supported that initiative.

A few months later, we held the first meeting of Central American presidents in Esquipulas. Many years had passed since the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua. Those were years in which dialogue among the Central American presidents and among representatives of our governments was practically impossible. Our territories faced war and the war was claiming our peoples' lives. There was also a verbal war going on.

We took up the challenge with energy. We were responding to the sacrifice of the Central American people, who were affected by great injustices and above all, by a military escalation that had been claiming Central American lives day after day, year after year.

We met in Esquipulas. It was a great experience to meet and address those problems that had been demanding a solution for many years. We were determined to respect our viewpoints and ideologies, but to agree on the need for strengthening peace. In order to strengthen peace, democracy needed to be strengthened. In order to strengthen democracy, justice needed to be strengthened in the social and economic sectors. In order to strengthen democracy, human rights needed to be respected in the Central American region. In order to strengthen democracy, one had to act with dignity in defense of Central America's interests, in defense of the sovereignty of our countries, and in defense of our countries' self-determination and independence.

That was the first meeting, which resulted in a declaration that expressed the Central American presidents' political determination to work for peace, democracy, social and economic justice, and respect for human rights.

Logically, we cannot disregard the fact that those who met during the previous years in response to the demands of our people and international concerns, especially the concerns of the Latin American countries, had participated with the mediation of the Contadora Group. In dozens of meetings, the issues of peace, democracy, disarmament, and the eradication of irregular forces from the Central American region were constantly being hammered out and discussed, but without any agreements being signed.

Undoubtedly, the role played by the Contadora Group was very important in avoiding a situation that could have led to a greater military escalation in the Central American region.

I would say these agreements are based on the Contadora experience and on an initiative brought up by President Vinicio Cerezo in January 1986, when the first summit was held in Esquipulas. The agreement was reached in Guatemala City on August 1987.

The agreement signed by the Central American presidents was supported by the Central American people and the international community. Each and every one of the Central American governments signed a peace plan to strengthen democracy in each one of our countries, to work for peace, to have the Central American people move closer to each other, to eliminate violence, and to create real conditions in our respective countries for waging a constructive struggle in civic matters.

The struggle against war has been going on since 7 August 1987. We held one meeting after another amid great difficulties and various problems. We had to understand the special problems of each Central American country. We understood that we could not think about a peace process in which we could all march at the same pace until we had reached full democracy.

We made progress in the areas of peace and stability. We made progress for the benefit of our people. We counted on the support of all the Central American peoples, especially of the poor, the workers, and peasants. They have had to carry the burden of injustice, violence, and tragedy experienced by Latin America. These problems have occurred in Central America over many years in which our people have been hungry for peace, justice, and democracy.

Convinced that violence was spreading in our countries and that injustice had been institutionalized, that dictatorships were stepping all over our countries with their boots on; this led to the people's struggle and response. In the case of Nicaragua, a heroic revolution was launched which ended on 19 July 1979 with the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship.

The Nicaraguans feel that over the years, since August 1987, we have contributed the most we could have to this peace process, amid the grief of the Nicaraguan mothers and people. The foreign meddling and the policy of the U.S. leaders, judged guilty by the International Court of Justice, was intended to bring war to our country, to divide the Nicaraguan people, and to send brothers to kill brothers.

However, the Nicaraguan people's desire for peace has been stronger. The Central American people's desire for peace has been stronger. We have been defeating the policies of death, war, and intervention in Central America, especially in Nicaragua. We have been strengthening a democratic process, which in Nicaragua had its first expression with the literacy campaign, in other words, democracy in the social sector, democracy by distributing land to the peasants, democracy in all aspects, and democracy through elections, which for the first time in Nicaragua's history were held with the participation of seven parties in November 1984. A constitution was drafted in our country. It established a multiparty system, a mixed economy, nonalignment, and called for periodic elections.

All of this was defended with the blood of the Nicaraguan people. It was defended by the Nicaraguan people who sacrificed their best sons. It was defended in the international arena and through the peace process, which united us, which put the Central American presidents on the same path from that very first meeting in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

Today in Montelimar, we are ending one more meeting of this peace process. I say this is another meeting, because, although important progress has been made in Central America, we, the Central American rulers today, the Central American rulers tomorrow, the Central American political leaders today, the Central American political leaders tomorrow, the Central American people today, and the Central American people tomorrow, cannot be satisfied as long as violence of any kind continues to take place in Central America, regardless of the origin. We also cannot be satisfied if foreign interventions in the Central American area, that attack the sovereignty of our people, continue.

We cannot be satisfied as long as Central American children continue to be victims of curable diseases, as long as our people continue to suffer hunger, and as long as there continues to be great differences in the distribution of resources in the economic and social sectors of our respective countries. We cannot be satisfied as long as the arsenals continue to grow daily in our countries, increasing the possibilities of a war that would be no cause for hope. How we wish all the weapons were destroyed once and for all; how we wish the superpowers, those who have huge weapons, who spend millions on them, would set an example, because they tell us to disarm while they arm everyday. How we wish that all those weapons could be thrown into the sea and all the resources spent on them used for the health, housing, and education programs demanded by our people.

We will leave it to them and their consciences, to them, the powerful ones of the world, and their cynical attitudes. While they demand the disarmament of our people, they continue arming themselves to the teeth and spending thousands of millions of dollars on weapons. We have a commitment to our people and our history. We are committed toward working so that weapons will not continue to flourish in the region, to setting a deadline on introducing weapons in the area, and so there will no longer be any foreign military presence in the Central American area, and we can turn Central America into a neutral and peaceful zone.

This is the best guarantee that our nations could have. When could our nations ever have such atomic power as that of the United States or the Soviet Union? We cannot enter into that crazy and absurd competition. We cannot even think about that. The atomic weapon that our people could hold is the weapon of neutrality: a neutral Central American zone, a Central American peace zone, a Central American zone free of any foreign military presence, a Central American security zone. That is our atomic weapon. That is where our strength lies. Our strength lies in the possibility that we Central Americans have of freeing ourselves from any foreign military presence, of setting ceilings on armaments, of gradually reducing armaments, and of allocating more resources to our peoples' great demands in the social and productive sectors.

Today, here in Montelimar, we have been pleased to receive our esteemed friends, the Central American presidents, at a crucial moment for Central America and for Nicaragua. It is a moment when Nicaragua is reaffirming, after 25 February, its democratic spirit and the fact that this revolution was undertaken to bring about what had been denied Nicaragua for many years, that which had been unknown in Nicaragua, democracy. We are here, brothers, thanking the Central American presidents for their participation and telling them to continue moving forward.

D'Escoto on 'Softening of Positions'

PA0304204290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1635 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Interview with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto by an unidentified reporter in Montelimar, Nicaragua, on 3 April—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] How are the talks going?

[D'Escoto] In general, there has been a very positive atmosphere. At the Alajuela meeting, I was very pleased because it looked as if the foreign ministers had approved a mechanism for the verification of the political pledges, which are still in effect. Following the Alajuela meeting, however, the foreign ministers never agreed on verifying the political pledges, particularly on the human rights issue. On this occasion, Nicaragua's proposal was approved, but all of a sudden there are a few countries backing out.

[Reporter] Which countries are backing out?

[D'Escoto] We will handle this like friends. I hope this problem will be resolved, but the countries should not be afraid. We cannot possibly talk about democracy while fearing the objective verification of each state's behavior regarding political, civil, cultural, economic, or social

rights. That is the core of democracy. What sense would it make to talk about democracy without talking about human rights? Democracy is a label that means respect for political, civil, cultural, economic, and social rights. These should be the results, and I hope that they will be accomplished in this final round of talks.

There has already been a softening of positions this morning, so I am very pleased, because at the Alajuela meeting, which was the second summit in this overall Esquipulas process, we were instructed by the presidents to create a mechanism. The mechanism still has not been created, and some would ask: Why so many problems over this human rights issue when everyone knows that since there were free elections everything is all right?

But it is not so. [Words indistinct] are saying: Look, this is my last meeting. [Words indistinct] burden my conscience. We have this proposal, but I will not cooperate in any type of resolution that creates a mechanism of self-verification, because I do not believe that is fair.

[Reporter] Are the talks at a standstill?

[D'Escoto] No, they are not at a standstill. I would say that in general terms they are going very well.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto] Yes, there have even been some kidnappings, and the contras have been behaving in a very worrisome manner.

Montelimar Declaration Released

PA0404024490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2340 GMT 3 Apr 90

["Declaration of Montelimar" issued by the Central American presidents in Montelimar, Nicaragua, on 3 April; read by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman—live]

[Text] Declaration of Montelimar:

The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua met in Montelimar, Republic of Nicaragua, on 2 and 3 April, 1990;

Having considered the agreements reached in the various documents and declarations that form part of the Esquipulas peacemaking process;

And encouraged by the same patriotic and Central American spirit that has made it possible for dialogue and negotiation among the Central American rulers to become a historical and decisive contribution toward regional peace;

Hereby agree:

1. To ratify the full validity of each and every commitment made during the Esquipulas process and to reaffirm the decision to comply with the agreements reached.

2. To express their satisfaction with the progress made in consolidating democracy in the region through free and honest elections; the elections are proof of the effectiveness and compliance with the political agreements that are part of Esquipulas.

3. To express their satisfaction with the successful electoral process in the Republic of Nicaragua on 25 February 1990, inasmuch as the elections were held within an atmosphere of absolute freedom and honesty, as the many international witnesses certified.

To praise the guarantees granted by the Nicaragua Government in complying with the political commitments made during the various stages of the Esquipulas process and express their satisfaction over the agreements reached by the transition teams of the current government and the government-elect. The sovereign decisions of the Nicaraguan people were supported morally within a framework of respect.

Therefore, the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras express to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra their recognition for having promoted and strengthened the process of consolidating a representative and pluralist democracy in his country.

4. To ratify their commitment of continuing to promote respect for human rights, including strengthening and improving their democratic systems so that the participation of all citizens in the political life of the country, the independence and impartiality of the judiciary branch, and the respect for civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights will be fully guaranteed.

5. To emphasize the need for the immediate demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] according to the joint demobilization plan signed at the Tela summit on 7 August 1989 and the Toncontin agreement signed in Honduras on 23 March 1990, and to express our satisfaction over the willingness shown by the involved parties toward that goal.

The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras welcome the immediate support this agreement received from the Nicaraguan Government, to which they grant full support so that peace will be restored in the country and an absolutely normal transfer of power will occur.

To support the protocol of transfer of presidential power of the Republic of Nicaragua and ask ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] to take the necessary steps in order to guarantee the best support for the demobilization and disarmament of the RN members, in or out of Nicaragua, that should begin immediately and end by 27 April, at the latest.

The weapons that ONUCA will receive must be destroyed on site, in the presence of representatives from other Central American Governments invited for this purpose by the corresponding government.

Urge the U.S. Government to continue supporting and advocating the RN's demobilization and to channel the funds approved for these forces to the CIAV so that they can be used to reintegrate all former RN members who have turned in their weapons to the ONUCA and their relatives to normal activities in the country.

State their thanks and express their recognition of the Honduran Government for its valuable cooperation in the RN's demobilization.

6. Thank the UN and OAS Secretaries General for their continuous efforts in support of the Esquipulas process and to reiterate their support for the ONUCA and CIAV work.

7. Reiterate the importance of the irregular forces' incorporation in the country's political life, within the framework of the Esquipulas Agreements, as important for the consolidation of democracy. Referring to this, they stated their pleasure with the prompt renewal of the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]; and for the agreements reached in Oslo between the National Reconciliation Commission [CNR] of Guatemala and the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity]. The Central American countries also offered to host the meetings that will be held in these processes.

8. Condemn the actions of terrorism in the region and reiterate their appeal to end all kinds of violent actions that directly or indirectly affect the civilian population and the production infrastructure; and immediately demand the immediate release of all kidnapped people who are in the hands of irregular forces or terrorist groups.

9. According to Point No. 7 of the Esquipulas II Agreements, and given the progress achieved in the processes for national reconciliation and the consolidation and perfecting of democracy, they decide that this is the time to sponsor and set a date for the pending negotiations on security issues, verification, control and delimitation of weapons.

Therefore, they call for the security commission to meet in Costa Rica on 15 May 1990 to continue the negotiations.

10. The consolidation of democracy makes it necessary to decisively face the economic challenge, once the obstacles for the achievement of peace have been overcome. Consequently, they have decided that the next summit will basically analyze:

A) The reorganization, strengthening, and reactivation of the regional economic integration.

B) The evolution toward an integrated production system at the regional level.

C) Review the foreign debt problem.

D) A better distribution of social costs in the economies.

Support the national economic adjustment programs necessary to counter the area's grave economic and social situation, as the stability of the countries in the region depends on its solution. Referring to this, they issue an appeal to the international community, urging it to strengthen, consolidate, and broaden its economic support in the region by means of the Luxembourg Accord, direct cooperation, and the Joint Plan for Cooperation in Central America.

In this context, they reiterate the urgent need to provide additional financial resources to Central American countries under favorable conditions, to recognize the need to strengthen activities of public as well as private and local or international organizations which assist in overcoming political obstacles, to the solution of social problems, and to promote economic development in the region. In this sense, they expressed their satisfaction with the promises of assistance in these tasks made by the governments of Canada and Japan.

To express their strong belief that in this new stage, the integration of the people and government of Panama is fundamental in the efforts being undertaken in the region for strengthening and improving democratic and pluralistic regimes committed to the economic and social development of its peoples;

With the firm intention of making this idea a reality, and to support efforts for the normalization of political life in that country, within the most strict respect for international juridical order, and in particular to the norms for coexistence among sovereign nations, they have decided to fraternally invite the Panamanian Government to actively participate in the dialogues, negotiations, and agreements that the Central American Governments are carrying out in this respect. To express satisfaction with the accomplishments attained during the implementation of the special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, PEC, as a valuable instrument of the peace plan, and to urge contract commitments for the financing of projects within the framework of meetings promoted by the UNDP [UN Development Program]

To point out the importance of the continuation of this mechanism with the financial support, within the UNDP.

To accept with satisfaction the proposal made by the Colombian, Mexican, and Venezuelan Governments for their cooperation in the development and strengthening of national centers established in Central American countries, so they understand the regional scope and significance of education, health, agriculture, and energy, and to recognize the contributions by those countries toward peace efforts in Central America.

11. To express deep satisfaction over the process to ratify the protocol of the treaty calling for the Central American parliament, which will then begin a new stage in the Central American integration process.

12. To sign a regional cooperation agreement to eliminate illegal drug trafficking as an expression of their political determination to closely assist in the joint efforts to prevent and face dangers derived from illegal drug trafficking.

They noted, in particular, the importance of regional and international cooperation and the importance of adopting laws that will permit the elimination of drug trafficking.

13. To express their satisfaction with the work performed by the Central American Environment and Development Commission, and to reaffirm support for this commission so that it continues to assess the needs and feasibility of obtaining flexible and innovative financial resources to promote its programs and plans. In this regard, they have agreed to discuss the topic of swapping the debt for environmental protection commitments, at the next Central American presidents summit.

14. To support the implementation of development programs for the displaced, refugeed, and repatriated Central American population, and to request that the international community expand and maintain existing commitments, to avoid delays in the implementation of such programs, and to express support for the first international meeting to follow-up the international conference on Central American refugees that will be held soon at the UN headquarters.

15. To reaffirm that the health of the Central American people is a political priority, which means that joint actions aimed at promoting health conditions must be preserved and intensified. These actions are intended to be a bridge for peace and understanding in the area. To accomplish this, the health ministers have been asked to immediately evaluate the achievements of the last five years in the priority health plan and to draft a new health initiative for Central America. To achieve this, the cooperation of the Panamerican Health Organization, OPS, and the World Health Organization, WHO, among others will be requested.

The presidents have decided to meet again during the second half of the current year at a meeting scheduled to be held in Guatemala.

17. [number as heard] The presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras would like to praise the fraternal hospitality of the people and government of Nicaragua, which definitely contributed to the frank and constructive atmosphere that allowed the effective continuation of the Central American peace efforts.
Signed in Montelimar, Republic of Nicaragua on 3 April 1990.
Oscar Arias Sanchez, president of the Republic of Costa Rica
Alfredo Cristiani Burkard, president of the Republic of El Salvador
Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, president of the Repulic of Guatemala
Rafael Leonardo Callejas, president of the Republic of Honduras
Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic of Nicaragua

West Indian Commission To Start Work Session

FL0304020290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 2, CANA—The Commonwealth Caribbean will this month advance its ambitious plan to mount a region-wide people's consultation on the future of the area. One of the key players in the initiative, outgoing Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal, says he is anxious for "maximum people's co-operation" to achieve the objectives of the independent West Indian Commission. Launched in November last year in Trinidad and Tobago, the 15-member commission, chaired by Ramphal, will hold its first public working session here in Barbados on April 9.

"For the first time in about fifty years," Ramphal told CANA, "we will be getting on the road to listen to the people from all segments of society and across this region. We will talk with them", he said, "seek their ideas and have those ideas put before the governments to help them in the shaping of our destiny as we prepare for the 21st century."

Ramphal said that he has decided to fully commit himself for the next two years to fulfilling the mandate assigned the commission by the governments of the 13-member Caribbean Community (Caricom) at their 10th summit in Grenada in 1989. He has conceptualised the commission as "a public forum on the future."

"I wish to emphasise", said Ramphal, "how very crucial it is for us to obtain the full co-operation of every organisation, institutions, all West Indians who may have ideas to help to make this region of ours a better place in this decade and beyond."

In this context, declared Ramphal, who is also chancellor of the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana, he wished to " enlist the co-operation of the region's media."

What was desirable, he explained, was that not only for the members of the commission, but for the West Indian people across the region, irrespective of political persuasions, to have access to the media systems owned and operated by both the public and private sectors. "We genuinely want people's participation. It is the people's future we are talking about. Communications with the people is absolutely vital."

A former Guyana foreign minister and attorney general, and one of the architects in the framing of the 1973 Caricom Chaguaramas Treaty, Ramphal has already commissioned a paper on a communications strategy for the work of the commission to underline the importance

being attached to "our people-oriented approach." The work programme begins next week—exactly seven months before the holding in Trinidad in November of a major Caribbean Economic Conference (CEC), another important decision of the last year's Caricom summit.

Prime minister A.N.R Robinson of Trinidad and Tobago, whose government initiated the move for the commission as well as for the economic conference, observed: "What distinguishes this commission from similar West Indian commissions and committees in the past forty years, is its mandate to consult intensively with the people at all levels in the various countries of the region."

The Trinidad and Tobago government's paper on "the West Indies beyond 1992," which gave birth to the idea for the independent West Indian Commission, had warned of the dangers in the region's failure to intelligently and urgently respond to the historic changes taking place at the global level. "The Caribbean could be," it said, "in danger of becoming a backwater, separated from the main current of human advance into the twenty-first century—unless the opportunity is taken to focus attention on the long history of Caribbean achievement which is also a consequence of the 'old' and 'new' worlds in 1492 and on Caribbean prospects beyond 1992..."

For Caricom Secretary General Roderick Rainford, a member of the commission, of which UWI vice-chancellor, Alister Mcintyre, is the vice-chairman, "the commission and its mandate and leadership represent a renewal of vision." Other members of the commission, which is to have a small professional secretariat located in Barbados, are Professor Rex Nettleford, pro-vice-chancellor of the UWI; William Demas, governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Vaughan Lewis, director-general of the OECS secretariat; Leonard Archer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour; Rev. Allan Kirton, general secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches.

Cuba

Continuing Events, Reaction Regarding TV Marti

Officials, Americans Interviewed

FL0304163490

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1127 GMT on 3 April carries a 26-minute video report on TV Marti with a series of interviews by Alexis Muniz Olivar and Raul Mondelo and commentary by Cesar Arredondo. Those interviewed include Jorge Gomez Barata and Leonardo Cano of the Department of Revolutionary Orientation of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee; Rodobaldo Diaz, vice president of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute; The Reverend Raul Suarez, a Baptist pastor and president of the Ecumenical Council; Cuban Attorney General Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa; David Evans of the U.S. Interests Section; Antonio Navarro, acting director of TV Marti; U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson; and unidentified people on the street.

Arredondo begins by saying that the Cuban reaction was no surprise; the Cuban Government had given clear warning of what it would do if TV Marti broadcasts began. He notes they could be the start of an escalation that would have unpredictable consequences. Gomez Barata says this situation may lead to a crisis and be a pretext for a U.S. attack on Cuba, and that the United States will bear all the responsibility for whatever happens in this area.

Gomez and Cano say the American public is ignorant about Cuba and particularly about TV Marti because of the disinformation disseminated by the media. Cano says American reports always omit the fact that Cuba has repeatedly said it would be willing to exchange programming with U.S. stations within a climate of mutual respect.

Gomez says that the U.S. statements are apparently constructive and ingenous but that they hide a very deep evil, are manipulative, and Cubans should not let themselves be deceived. De la Cruz cites the Nairobi declaration regulating international telecommunications on the right of every nation to protect its radiophonic space, quoting, "The members also reserve the right to interrupt any private telecommunications that could appear to be dangerous to a nation's security or contrary to its laws, public order, or decency." Gomez adds, "We have always stated, we still state, and it is the truth of the matter, that this project has no legal foundation, no support in law, that it is absolutely illegal, and this has been demonstrated very clearly."

Arredondo notes that the United States cannot be relied on to comply with international agreements; for example, it has done nothing to curb the many pirate radio stations operating against Cuba, which Cuba has repeatedly denounced. Arredondo then gives a list of the international organizations, governments, and press that have protested the start-up of TV Marti. He describes TV Marti as "the first step in what could be called a new mode in the cold war the U.S. Government has waged against the Cuban revolution for more than 30 years." On what can be expected from the United States, Gomez says, "What we expect from the United States is aggressiveness, and we are preparing to respond in this area to defend our country, defend the revolution, and defend our gains from the aggressiveness of the United States."

U.S. Broadcaster Opposition Noted

FL0304175990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush recently traveled to Atlanta to speak at the conference of U.S. broadcasters and ask for their support for the TV Marti project. However, Bush ran into opposition there when the media representatives pointed out to the President that the radioelectric confrontation with Cuba may have unpredictable consequences since Cuba has the means to jam local radio frequencies in response to an escalation in the television hostilities. In this regard, a U.S. representative, (Al Swift), told Bush that TV Marti was stupid. The project is an absurd mistake, (Swift) said, and stated that it is a very costly, useless plan.

The radioelectric confrontation between the United States and Cuba obviously concerns the U.S. broadcasters, many of whom do not reject the possibility of appealing to Congress to request a veto on the television project. In its strategy, the United States has tried to conceal from the American public the initial defeat of the project and its current cost. However, some American journalists have expressed their opinions on the television hostilities, terming them impractical and extremely risky.

Since 27 March, when TV Bush came on the air, the ingenuity of the Cuban technicians and experts turned it into an electronic Bay of Pigs. Cuban jamming to safeguard our sovereignty has been so effective that out of 18 hours of television broadcasts, only a few moments—not more than 26 minutes—have been received in the country. For these 26 minutes the United States has invested an amount close to $600,000, demonstrating the current project's lack of feasibility and its unpopularity in U.S. broadcasting circles.

However, some think that with the current international situation and the most recent events in Panama and Nicaragua, the Bush administration could turn TV Marti into a pretext for aggressive military operations of greater scope. Cuba is also prepared for that time, and just as the idiotic technological scheme became a mess [tele garabato], greater incidents of bravado in the hemisphere will lead to a true holocaust in the Caribbean.

Communications Minister Comments

FL0304181290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The International Radioelectrical Frequencies Board of the International Telecommunications Union has made known to the Cuban Government its disagreement with the broadcasts to Cuba of the badly-named TV Marti. This information was provided today by Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rebasa, who added:

[Begin Castillo recording] I want to inform you that our technicians and engineers have fulfilled the mission with which they were entrusted and have succeeded in neutralizing the broadcasts throughout the territory. One week after the start of the aggressive broadcasts, there are no TV Marti signals in our territory. They have been neutralized. [end recording]

Press Visits Jamming Stations

PA0304182690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1628 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Gerardo Gonzalez Vega]

[Text] Havana, 3 Apr (EFE)—The Cuban authorities today showed the foreign press part of the installations used to block signals sent by TV Marti, the television station that broadcasts from the United States.

The tour included a visit to the Baracoa Air Force Base (located approximately 20 km west of Havana); to an antenna located on a hill in Lawton neighborhood in the outskirts of the city; and to another antenna located in the building that houses the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT), near the university.

During the tour of Baracoa Air Force Base, Colonel Jose Herrera and Lieutenant Colonel Thais Martinez told the press that Cuba is using every means necessary to successfully block the TV Marti signal. However, they avoided giving further details, claiming that these are a military secret.

At the base the officers showed two Soviet-made MI-17 helicopters that are used to seal gaps which, according to their explanation, result from the use of stationary antennas.

The officers admitted that they are using naval equipment to seal other gaps; however, they did not specify what type of naval equipment is being used or whether planes are also being used in addition to the helicopters. The sources did not disclose the number of helicopters involved.

A war is a war, Col. Herrera said, adding that the procedures being used to block the signal of the aggressor channel are valid.

The officers also said that personnel from the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and also other organizations under the coordination of the Communications Directorate, are involved in the operations to block the signals.

Lt. Col. Martinez explained that the technology used to block the signals is the necessary technology, a phrase that seemed to be his favorite because he used it several times during the meeting. The constant use of the phrase upset the foreign correspondents who are in Cuba.

Meanwhile, Col. Herrera told EFE that the interference is not achieved with a single jamming device [caja de los truenos], but with a complex technical system in which internationally made equipment is used, although the overall system is Cuban.

It is a matter of sovereignty and dignity, the colonel added. If Cuba puts up with this situation, the United States could turn around and do the same to Latin America tomorrow, and perhaps some day to Spain.

Lt. Col. Martinez, who stressed that we will continue to jam TV Marti as long as our government wishes to, explained that Radio Marti (the radio predecessor to TV Marti which has been operating since 1985) is not being jammed because the government did not want to do so.

First Lieutenant Gustavo Sojo, one of the helicopter pilots who attended the meeting with the press, explained that each of the MI-17 helicopters uses 900 liters of fuel per flight hour, although Cuba does not care about this expense but rather, cares about the defense of its sovereignty.

Regarding the ground antennas, the one located at the ICRT installations was only seen from outside the building, while the one located in Lawton neighborhood was viewed from outside the metal fence surrounding it. Neither antenna was under military protection. The antennas are approximately 100 meters tall and were installed before the creation of TV Marti. Some devices were added two-thirds up on the antennas, and they are allegedly the devices used for the jamming.

Meanwhile, there have already been two postponements of a news conference originally scheduled for 1000 (1500 GMT) today. The news conference, which is being given to provide information on TV Marti, will be held by a high-ranking leader of the Communist Party of Cuba—presumably President Fidel Castro, although this has not been confirmed.

The last of these postponements set the time for the news conference at 1800 (2300 GMT) this afternoon at Havana's Palace of Conventions.

The news conference has created much international expectation, as proven by the presence of almost 200 journalists (approximately half of them from the United States) who have come to Havana. They also include journalists from Spain, France, Italy, Japan, and Mexico, and also other countries.

Some journalists have expressed their disappointment over the delays in the news conference as this may increase the expenses for the media they represent because of the complex equipment they must carry, particularly in the case of television stations.

They are also disappointed because the installations that they were allowed to see did not include an alleged jamming center protected by missiles that was reported in the U.S. press, and because the official information that has been released has been kept to a minimum, in line with the usual policy of military secrecy.

Meanwhile, the Cuban news agencies disclosed today that the TV Marti signal was again jammed earlier in the day. It has been a week since TV Marti first came on the air and began testing its signal.

Official Position Presented

FL0304181090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Cuban Communications Minister Manuel Castillo held a news conference during which he presented the Cuban Government's position regarding U.S. television aggression.

[Begin Castillo recording] As you all know, the U.S. Government has tried to beam an aggressive television transmission toward our territory by force. This action violates the letter and spirit of the basic provision of the International Telecommunications Agreement of the International Telecommunications Union [ITU], which establishes each country's sovereign right to regulate its telecommunications systems.

Thus, the anti-Cuban station, ill-named TV Marti, violates Article 158 of the ITU agreement, which says:

All stations, regardless of their goal, must be installed and used in such a way that they do not interfere with and harm the communications or airwave services of other members, of recognized private companies, and of all other companies duly authorized to conduct radio communication services that operate according to radio telecommunications provisions and regulations. [end recording]

Castro Holds News Conference

FL0404022290 Havana International Service in Spanish 2303 GMT 3 Apr 90

[News conference by President Fidel Castro; accompanied by Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rebasa, Central Committee member Carlos Aldana, and Enrique Roman, president of the Cuban Radio and Television Institute; with an unidentified moderator and local and foreign correspondents in Havana on 3 April—recorded]

[Text] [Moderator] Good afternoon, colleagues. President Fidel Castro is here with us to immediately begin this news conference. Along with him we have Cuban Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rebasa, Central Committee member Carlos Aldana, and Enrique Roman, president of the Cuban Radio and Television Institution.

Before starting this news conference, I would like to inform President Castro and all of you that 236 correspondents are participating in this news conference. One hundred and ten of them have specifically traveled to Havana and have been accredited to our country especially for this news conference. There are 53 representatives from the U.S. press—of 22 different U.S. press media—and there are 57 correspondents from the FRG, France, Mexico, Spain, Japan, England, India, Switzerland, Brazil, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, Nicaragua, and Australia. There are 60 reporters who are permanently accredited to Havana. There are 16 Latin American reporters who are taking courses at the International Journalist Institute here in Havana, and there are 60 reporters representing Cuban media.

We have collected the requests presented by all those colleagues who wish to ask questions during this news conference. Gerardo Gonzalez from the news agency EFE is the first one to have the floor this evening. Please....

[Castro, interrupting] I do not know why there are so many reporters here. I just heard of the number of reporters we have here, and I am amazed. I now find an explanation for something I heard a few minutes ago. I heard that there was great expectation regarding this news conference. It seems to me that this expectation is groundless. It is not right to imagine that very important things are going to be said here. In fact, this news conference was not included in my plans. I had a lot of things to do this week, and I was not aware that I had such a big news conference today.

The truth is that the comrades who are working on this whole problem of that famous television station called a news conference to explain the Cuban viewpoint regarding this problem. It so happened that the media responded in an unexpected, overwhelming manner to their call. Then I was told that many people were expecting me to hold the news conference and that—I do not know why—people would be disappointed [if I did not hold it]. So fearing that nobody would show up if in the future the comrades called another news conference, I gladly—well, not so gladly—decided to participate in this news conference. After all, I sort of like this sport.

And as you see, we have come with a group of comrades, because we have experts here in Cuba. In today's world, it is practically impossible to face problems without the assistance of experts. That is why I have experts here. I have Rebasa here. I believe Aldana is an expert in all these things. [Castro pounds table] I also have Jurito [not further identified] and Roman from the television. I am not sure what Roman knows about all this, but I imagine that he must know something [reporters laugh]. Anyway, here we are at your disposition.

[Moderator] Gerardo Gonzalez, EFE correspondent to Havana, has the floor.

[Castro] Where is he?

[Gonzalez] Can you hear me? All right. I would like to ask Commander Castro whether he believes the TV Marti issue could result in a military conflict with the United States. Thank you.

[Castro] When adventures such as this one begin, when actions violating international law are committed, when an aggression against a sovereign nation is committed—as is now the case—anything can happen. When we see how absurd all of this is, we think that perhaps the United States is looking for an excuse for a military confrontation with Cuba. We are not in a position to say what the true plans of the United States are, but, at any rate, this does not intimidate us.

It will not be easy for them to impose on us by force something that is against our country's will, and it will not be easy to carry out military adventures against our fatherland. Of course, we are not interested in a military confrontation, but we have been preparing for it if it happens.

[Moderator] (George Heda), from the U.S. agency AP, has the floor.

[(Heda)] Commander.

[Castro] Do I have to put this on? Does he speak Spanish? Are you going to speak Spanish or English?

[(Heda)] I can manage a little Spanish.

[Castro] As you prefer.

[(Heda)] Will Cuba retaliate further if this situation continues?

[Castro] What does that mean? What do you mean by: Will Cuba retaliate any further if this situation continues? What retaliation can we speak of? What has been Cuba's retaliation? Is defending our radio space, is defending a sovereign right of the country, retaliation? I think that first of all I must reject the term retaliate regarding the way Cuba has responded to this aggression so far. I do not accept the term retaliate. I will not accept it. In any event, we can talk about a response. [pauses] A situation like this cannot continue indefinitely, for life. Therefore, we reserve the right to add new responses if this aggression continues.

[Moderator] Raul Rodriguez, from Mexico's Imevision.

[Rodriguez] Mr. President Castro, the fact that this new chapter of almost three decades of differences and attacks is being experienced shows how the world has been changing....

[Castro, interrupting] What has been changing?

[Rodriguez] The world. In this case, in a war not known at the telecommunications level. I would like to know if Cuba is changing today, if it plans to change, if there is a will to rectify the mistakes that necessarily are committed along the way. This is my question.

[Castro] What does this have to do with television?

[Rodriguez] This may be an example of how the world is changing, in the face of....

[Castro, interrupting] I do not see as many changes because the world we know today is the same as the one we knew 30 years ago. We have been subjected to aggressions for 30 years. We have been subjected to blockades by the United States, threats, violations of the most elementary rights of our country to live in peace, to build its life. Therefore, in this sense we do not see great changes. It will be 29 years this month since the Giron attack, the Giron invasion. A number of attacks were made on our country before the Giron invasion. Mercenary bands and dirty wars were organized. Those attacks continued. There were pirate attacks. There was a total economic blockade. This struggle has already been going on for 30 years. We have not seen any changes in the attitude of the United States.

I did not mention the October crisis which almost brought the world to nuclear war as a result of all these aggressive U.S. actions. We continue with the same policy now. We do not see any change. On the contrary, we see that the empire is more arrogant, more prepotent, more thoughtless, more aggressive. Those are the kinds of changes we are seeing.

Regarding Cuba, it has been changing for a long time and it has been truly changing. It has changed more than all of Latin America. That change, which is called revolution, began on 1 January 1959. We have changed, and we continue to change, but in a revolutionary sense. If you ask us if we will regress, we will say no. If you ask us if we will change our pace and march backward, we will say no. If you ask us if we are going to make changes in a capitalist sense, we will say no; we will not make a single change. If you ask us if we will rectify our errors, the answer is yes because we have always been aware of the fact that we are not infallible, that an infallible revolution can commit errors. There is a saying that goes: it is up to a wise man to rectify. That is nothing new in our revolutionary process. It is something we practice, and we will continue with the practice of rectifying that which life, experience, or reality shows us is an error or that which we ourselves realize is an error.

[Moderator] It is now Elizabeth Noriega's turn. She is from Cuban television.

[Noriega] Yesterday, amid the international repudiation against the anti-Cuban television station, U.S. President George Bush ratified his support for this project. What do you think of his remarks, and how do you place them within the traditional policy of the U.S. Administration toward Cuba and Third-World countries in general?

[Castro] Mr. Bush yesterday held a meeting with a group I think is called the Association of Radio Broadcasters. I think he said dumb, unimportant things. He did not really put forth any argument that could justify the aggression against our country. He especially did not mention any legal basis for this action, which violates many international laws. These are laws that are meant to preserve the sovereignty of countries and the equal status of all nations. These laws are meant to preserve peace among countries. This action violates international agreements that have been signed by the United States and Cuba themselves. He used simplistic, false arguments.

He spoke of liberty. Who knows what liberty he was speaking of because he was talking about liberty in the abstract, absolutely in the abstract. He said that the United States has the right to have its voice heard everywhere. That is the same philosophy that inspired the radio broadcasts that in a vile manner were baptized with the name of Jose Marti. He says the United States has the right to speak the truth, and we also proclaim our right to speak the truth. The United States proclaims the right to broadcast with its radio airwaves, for example, to the entire country. One of the things that remains to be solved—and one should not forget it—is Cuba's statement on its reciprocal right to direct radio broadcasts to the entire United States. It is a right. We also have a right, even though we are a small country, to speak our truth and express our truth. We claim that right.

Bush utilizes this argument to justify his actions. He practically said that he is doing it because he feels like making these broadcasts. He talks about it very openly, very frankly. He says the radio broadcasts played a very important role in the transformations that took place in socialist countries in East Europe. He even said that he has been thanked for it. He even hopes that one day in the future, the Cuban people will thank him. No one knows what they will thank him for. Will it be for all the poison that comes from a consumer society? Will it be for all the garbage, the violence, the vices that U.S. society suffers? Will we have to give thanks for that kind of culture? We can also hope that one day the U.S. people will thank us because we took the same right to broadcast toward the United States.

It is incredible that the government of a country that has totally blockaded Cuba in a fierce way, a country that will not allow even one piece of medical equipment to enter Cuba, that will not allow even one aspirin to enter the country, will boast and take pride in directing those television signals to Cuba. Why not send medicine? [pounds table once] Why will they not even authorize it, since they speak so much of human rights in such a hypocritical manner? Why are they blockading Cuba? Why will they not even sell us a single medicine? We could thank them for other things, but I cannot imagine what.

Perhaps if they were half decent we could thank them and say that we are glad, that we congratulate them because there was a more or less decent president in that position in the United States. There have been times when this has been the case. I compare him with Carter and I see a big difference between Carter's ethics and Mr. Bush's cynicism. This is what I can tell you about his statements, about what I was able to read; I believe today, during the conversation he had with the.... [changes thought] urging them to support the worm television, the TV lie as some people call it. This was at the meeting with broadcasters. He attempted to calm them regarding how they could be harmed by Cuba's just response to all these aggressive actions against the country.

[Moderator] It is (Omando Martinelli)'s turn from Italy's L'UNITA newspaper.

[(Martinelli)] Can you hear? So far, all the broadcast attempts made by the so-called TV Marti have been before dawn, a pretty unusual time for a television program. My question is, can this mechanism detect all of Cuba's means of radio defense? What do you think at this time, Commander? Thank you very much.

[Castro] Beginning at predawn is something usual for people who violate laws, for criminals. They like to act before dawn. It is also part of the hypocrisy and pharisaism of U.S. policy—that is, to begin doing something apparently harmless, that does not do any harm because it is before dawn. If it were not jammed and could be heard, it would already be damaging the country, because this is the time when everyone should be resting. It is not healthy for kids to watch a soap opera or a baseball game before dawn. Workers have to get up to carry out their tasks every day. This would harm the health of the family, of everyone. This is a time in which we have not even noticed interest. We have observed if curiosity has made people use more electricity before dawn. We have not noticed any increase in electric power consumption at that time. This was one of the problems that we considered.

The idea to do the tests at that time is clear. It is also possible that they are considering U.S. broadcasters, U.S. stations that could suffer the consequences of those tests. This is why they should have looked for the least damaging time for their own television during the testing. There is no doubt that they are conducting tests. They want to learn how the image is seen, if we can interfere with it or not. They want to see more or less what means we are using to interfere with it. This is very possible. It is logical. They are doing it.

Undoubtedly, their intention is to change the time later, to find another time during the day. If not, it would be necessary to send a psychologist, a psychiatrist to see the U.S. Government and see if it has gone mad. Madness should not be confused with shamelessness.

Therefore, they are trying to find those things out and also possibly to find out the means we have. Of course, we have not used all the means of response. Up to now, we have only used one measure. I do not know about the other means because you have been everywhere. I do not know what the comrades have told you. I do not know if

they have shown you all the means of response we have. I say response in general because not everything has to strictly concern television.

We have been testing our means these last few days, too. Everybody has been conducting tests. We have been improving our means and checking on atmospheric conditions, because the atmosphere affects all this. Bad weather, the cumulus clouds—sometimes they change direction and sometimes they harm the United States and sometimes they harm us too—affect all this. That is why we have devised a system that takes all variables into account. And I do not think that my comrades have used all their means. I do think, however, that they have been testing and that they are using the full capacity of their transmissions. They have been pulling the balloon up and down. They started putting the balloon at the lowest level and now the balloon is at about 3,000 meters from the ground. We are soon going to see the balloon from here, from the Malecon if they continue to bring it up. [reporters laugh] [Castro pounds the table]

So they have been doing their thing, and we have been following their activities closely. Obviously as you can imagine, we have been testing our various power levels and means, too. We have also been studying the various actions that they may conduct later on.

Thus, I believe that is correct. One of their objectives is to study the means that are available to us in this war that has fallen upon us to wage. We are facing the most technologically developed world power.

The problem is that we have great dignity and honor. We are not afraid of that type of [word indistinct]. We are extremely intelligent too. We have very intelligent people who have grown up in this country which is no longer a country of illiterate people as it was in 1959. This is a country with hundreds of thousands of people with college degrees and with hundreds of thousands of engineers, scientists, and many other intelligent people who are dedicated to their work and who are motivated by this challenge to our country's sovereignty.

For that reason we think—as I already said—that one knows how this kind of thing begins, but no one knows how they will end. We will not give in. We will go to the final consequences in the defense of the country. [Moderator] Ed Ravel, from the U.S. television network NBC, has the floor now.

[Ravel, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Commander, there are many Cubans in southern Florida who claim that you will not be in power one year from now. They are willing to come back here and take over power after you leave. What would be your message for them?

[Castro] Neither they nor I can be sure about that. Only God knows when the end will come and whether I will be dead or alive, healthy or sick one year from now. But the truth is that they have been saying the same thing for the last 31 years. The first ones who left Cuba for the United States thought they would come back six months later. There have been many difficult times. They kept thinking it was time to come back. They thought they were coming back when the Playa Giron events took place. They thought they would soon come back after the October crisis. They have been dreaming about those things for 31 years.

It is amazing that they do not know our people. I am not saying that they are underestimating me. They already pay too much attention to me. But what amazes me is that they underestimate our people, our revolution, our country's ability to defend itself in any situation. We can defend ourselves from political, economic, and military aggressions. We can protect ourselves from all difficulties.

I know very well what is encouraging them there. But it hardly seems possible that they ever lived in this country. Most of them lived here a long time ago. But it hardly seems possible that they do not know our people and country. If what they are saying is that the revolution will be defeated, then they can be sure they are wrong. If what they mean is that I will be fresh as an apple a year from now, they are wrong too, because what I am sure of is that a year from now I will be a year older. I will just be older one year from now. I will be a year older. But if I have the energy and if I am healthy, then I will be there. If I were not here [Castro pounds table], it would be simply because I died defending the revolution. To crush the revolution, to try to crush the revolution, not to actually crush it, they have to dismantle armies from abroad. I know that many have those illusions at present. But I do not want to go further into this matter.

[Moderator] (Ocher Odleen) of FRG television has the floor now.

[(Odleen)] Mr. President, in what way do you link the United States' attitude toward Cuba with the events in Nicaragua and Panama?

[Castro] I said a few minutes ago that the United States, the U.S. Government, the leaders of that country, are experiencing great euphoria not only because of the events in Panama and Nicaragua, but also because of the events that have taken place in Eastern Europe.

The United States cannot contain its ideas now, its feelings of being the owner of the world. That can be seen in its remarks, in the focus of what it says publicly, and also in the conversations it has with many people. It cannot hide its euphoria.

This is what led to the invasion of Panama. It had submitted Panama to such an intense level of economic pressure, to such an intense level of blockade, to such a large crisis, that it was very difficult for Panama to resist that situation for a very long time. No revolution ever occurred in Panama. A revolution changes many things, changes everything. A revolution, in essence, is much stronger, and the more profound it is, the stronger it is. [clears his throat] No revolution ever took place in Panama. Their cause was of a nationalist nature. They

defended their right to the Canal, their right to have the Canal returned to them from U.S. troops at the end of the period established by the Torrijos-Carter agreement.

It said that the fundamental reason for that war against them was not a war, but pressure against them. It wanted to remain in Panama, to maintain its bases in Panama. This has now been demonstrated by its actions. It does not even want an army in Panama. It is assumed it will remain there indefinitely.

The Panamanians were defending these patriotic, nationalist rights, but the Panamanians had not had a revolution and they did not have the strength that a revolutionary process gives a country. The military leaders were professional military men. Professional military men go to school, to an academy. They do not get a revolutionary education or philosophy even in the military field. If they had that philosophy and experience, they would still be fighting there in Panama, not in the city, but throughout the entire country. I really think that they followed a totally mistaken strategy in the area of defense, although I understand it because it is really difficult for a professional military man, for professional military men in general, to develop other concepts that are not conventional. They waged a conventional war with the U.S. Army. Since they were not strong, since they were not prepared for prolonged resistance, the effects of the U.S. blockade would sooner or later have taken its toll and the Panamanian Government, in my opinion, would not have been able to resist.

I ask myself, why did they invade that country? Why did they challenge international law? Why did they inflict that deep wound on Latin American feelings? Why did they renew their open role of intervention, their policy of gunboat diplomacy? One of the reasons is that they could test new weapons. They could test that famous invisible airplane [stealth fighter] and other weapons. They have not hidden the fact that they converted the city of Panama into a shooting range. That was one of the things they did, one of their goals. They attacked a country whose situation they had already made impossible.

In my opinion, they could have simply waited for the results of all those policies. Nevertheless, they were impatient to invade the country. One cannot believe the lies, the excuse they use, that someone was humiliated there. The ones that were humiliated every day, but every day [repeats himself], were the Panamanian soldiers and police. U.S. troops were everywhere, with their armored personnel carriers, with their soldiers. They went anywhere they wished. They would penetrate the area, enter, and leave every day. There are videocassettes showing everything the U.S. soldiers did there every day. Those were nothing more than excuses, but they demonstrate the prepotence, arrogance, and triumphalism with which they carried out that aggression, that war, that inglorious, shameful war. Most shameful still is that it was presented as a great victory, a military skill [pounds table once] without precedent in the annals of history. It is truly very offensive, very repugnant to see this. They are reflecting an attitude of triumphalism, an aggressive spirit, as if they considered themselves to be the owners of the world. They could be owners if there are people who are willing to have masters, but as long as there are people in the world who are not willing to accept masters, they will not own the world.

Nevertheless, this is not only the result of what happened in Panama or the Sandinists' unfavorable result in the Nicaraguan elections. This was already coming. This state of mind had been forming from the manner in which the United States interprets peace, from the way the United States interprets the agreements with the Soviet Union. We had already presented this problem. We had mentioned this problem a long time ago. It can be said that since 1988 we clearly stated what the United States understands by peace.

Is this a peace that can reach all countries equally or a peace that only reaches the superpowers? I can clearly see the U.S. idea of peace. It is peace with the Soviet Union and the right to intervene and wage a war against any Third World country. This is how the U.S. Government understands peace. We said this publicly almost a year and a half ago. We have been talking about this problem for a long time.

We have seen that it intervenes everywhere. One day it occurs to it that it has to bomb Libya, and it bombs Libya. Another day it figures it has to bomb Lebanon, and it bombs Lebanon. The next, it decides that planes need to take off from an aircraft carrier to restore internal order in the Philippines and the planes take off. It is not that the U.S. philosophy means it has a right to intervene in Latin America, but the right to intervene anywhere in the world. This is how the United States has been interpreting the concept of peace. We see it clearly. It wants to act today as an international gendarme more freely than ever. So this philosophy, this concept of gendarme, leads it to do all these things.

We also know that, as a result of all this, we are forced to face some threats. U.S. policy toward Cuba has become more aggressive and more threatening. We know how the Americans think regarding all this and there are some people in Latin America and other places who are concerned as a result of this policy. I do not want to continue further. How many questions have we answered already?

[Moderator] We have had....

[Castro, interrupting] I want to be brief so I can respond to the greatest number of questions. Everyone knows that I am not always brief. [laughter]

[Moderator] Please, now it is (Pascal Fletcher's) turn from REUTER agency.

[Castro] There you are again. The other day you were asking about sports. Is that not so?

[(Fletcher)] Yes, yes, sir.

[Castro] Now you can talk about politics.

[(Fletcher)] Well, it is going to be about TV Marti. Commander, Radio Marti began five years ago [words indistinct from members of the audience] Radio Marti began five years ago. [repeats] At the time, you believed it was a violation of sovereignty. It was also jammed at the beginning. Five years later, it is not a secret that it can be heard pretty easily in various places of the country.

[Castro] No, in the entire country.

[(Fletcher)] In the entire country. I wanted to ask, is Cuba going to let the same thing happen with TV Marti? If not, what is the difference between them?

[Castro] There is no difference from the moral and political point of view. The entire Radio Marti idea—I say this name with bitterness—was an aggressive one. It had subversive designs against our country.

The Radio Marti idea had a whole political objective behind it. The whole idea violated international laws. Although some of its plans, legalities, and pretexts were undercover, it was not brought up in the open; it was not such a flagrant violation [words indistinct] it is not TV Marti.

That problem has not been solved. First, I should tell you that Radio Marti was never jammed, never. I do not know where that story came from. We never.... [changes thought] Do you recall having done something like that? Roman, do you know whether we ever did that? That is a story. It never happened. I am not aware of that. I do not recall having done that. And I remember the decisions we made when Radio Marti went on the air. We even discussed that. There were some contacts. At a certain moment, [words indistinct] the U.S. [word indistinct] to discuss the Radio Marti problem, because we said we had a right to transmit to the entire U.S. territory. They said they had problems. They said they were not rejecting the transmissions, but that it was very difficult technically speaking. They always used the pretext of.... [changes thought] They said they were willing to apply the principle of reciprocity. Yet they always used the pretext that it was technically impossible. They talked about their radio system, about the way in which it was structured and distributed, about their radio system power level, etc. They said it was very difficult to find a place for us to reach all U.S. homes. Therefore, we [words indistinct] and we [words indistinct] that if it was impossible in practice, then why were they imposing Radio Marti on us? It is a problem that has not yet been solved. I want to warn you that it has not yet been solved.

I am going to tell you something that I have never really said before. Why did we respond differently to Radio Marti? [Castro pounds on table] We were engaged in the battle against the foreign debt in 1985. We held many meetings. We held important international meetings with labor, student, and peasant leaders; women; and politicians. If we go back to what was happening in 1985, we will see that almost 100 percent of our time, of our party leaders' time, and of my own time, were committed to that battle. And that problem has not been solved either. We expended enormous effortss trying to coordinate forces and unite wills, not only among the Latin American countries, but among the Third World countries. We were waging a battle against the foreign debt, the economic crisis, and the problems that were affecting us in 1985, in the middle of that decade.

The foreign-debt problem became a priority for us. When we saw the treacherous way in which they began their transmissions, just announcing them 24 hours before they started, we had to study the situation. Otherwise, our response to Radio Marti would have been different. You can be sure of that. We asked ourselves: why is this being done so abruptly? Why have they begun their transmissions suddenly in the middle of this battle?

They were pretty desperate with the battle Cuba was waging. We came to the conclusion that what they wanted was to take us away from the battle we were waging for the benefit of the rest of Latin America and the Third World, that battle against the debt, the looting of the Third World. They wanted to take us away from that battle to get us involved in another one. I say this with pain, with pain. [repeats] It was a cold [word indistinct], conscious one, we decided to prioritize the foreign debt battle and not get away from that to get totally involved in the Radio Marti battle. This was the reason we did not take stronger measures at that time.

This is how the transmissions began and they were left. The appropriate and ideal time had passed and we had to decide between one or the other. I thought that was a provocation, a plan for us to reduce the pressure we were exerting on such an important and strategic problem. Thus, we made the sacrifice and we left it.

We do not consider that the Radio Marti problem has been solved. It is a pending problem and can be involved in this new situation created by TV Marti, that is, TV Marti can involve the old Radio Marti problem. This possibility cannot be excluded. However, they have continued becausethey were not satisfied with Radio Marti. Radio Marti was not even necessary because the Voice of America had been operating for many years. They had no problem but they wanted to emphasize the issue to comply with the famous Santa Fe program and establish a subversive radio station, with political characteristics, aimed at destabilizing the country and influencing the political events of the country. This is the sense Radio Marti has and it is an unresolved problem.

Evidently they were encouraged; they thought we did not have enough determination to respond. Consequently, there is a pending problem to be solved. The Radio Marti problem also has to be solved.

[Moderator] Lawrence Holidan of USA TODAY now has the floor.

[Holidan, in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] Many of the radio broadcasters fear you will take reprisals by interfering with transmissions of U.S. radio stations. Are you going to do that?

[Castro] Look, we have no desire to affect U.S. radio transmitters. Some time ago they even voiced their concern over all of this. If any measure we adopt at a given moment affects U.S. radio broadcasts, believe me it will be against our intentions and wishes. We demand the right to broadcast by radio to all U.S. territory. It seems to be a basic right. We think it is a reciprocal right that the United States has taken concerning Cuba. Now then, it is not our fault that we are a small island, and it is not our fault that the United States is so big. We are not to be blamed for the problem, either. We have not created it.

Neither are we responsible for that structure, but the argument that there are no technical possibilities for solving that problem is wearing out. At one time, the solution was discussed with the United States. We said: you go ahead and send your broadcasts, but we also want to send our broadcasts. The United States has not continued the discussions. The United States has not wanted to solve that problem. We cannot renounce our right to transmit to the entire U.S. territory.

However, we do not have any intention, any intention [repeats himself], of affecting U.S. radio broadcasters. They are not to be blamed for this either. Actually, they have been drawn into this problem. I believe many of them have incurred expenses and made investments to obtain more volume, more strength, and more power in their equipment. All of these problems have come up. We have no problem with them, but this problem must be solved. We cannot indefinitely allow the United States to transmit to our territory on medium-wave while we are not allowed to transmit to the United States. It is not equitable; it is not just.

Therefore, we cannot renounce that right. Look, let me warn you, this is not a reprisal. Why should we call it a reprisal? It is the exercise of a right. That is how we see it. We will obviously have to enforce our rights. We will have to enforce our rights. We cannot allow this to continue indefinitely. And now, with this problem, we have been very patient with this problem. I have even given the reasons for following one guideline and not another. We have been patient. We have waited five years. We see no sign from the United States that it is willing to solve the problem. Instead, it wants to create new problems, and create new conflicts. That is the reality, the reality about a television—except it cannot be seen.

We have even estimated that, at a given time, it might be seen. I do not know what technical means could be used so it could be seen through a projection of force. We have also considered our responses to each possible situation. I say it is foolish. Actually, the United States did not have any need to get involved in this not-so-glorious thing. I still do not see any logic in committing this violation of international law.

Because really, in this case, we are defending not only Cuba's rights. Dozens of countries, many countries, the vast majority of countries in the world, disagree with this. They disagree because no country in the world will easily accept the idea of a superpower imposing television transmissions on them from a satellite, from a balloon, from a zeppelin, from a plane, from a boat, or from any other place.

Most of the world sees this U.S. action against Cuba as a very negative precedent. That is why the international public is opposed to this sort of thing. Mexico, Latin America, all Third World countries, and all the serious people on this planet, are opposed to this. Why now, when there is talk about peace, disarmament, peaceful solutions to problems—regional and international problems—should a small country like Cuba be subjected to this humiliation, this offense, this aggression? Can they not see that they are arousing fear, anxiety, and concern in the rest of the world? There are only two superpowers in the world, one of which wants to be the gendarme and owner of the world.

I want you to know that a great number of people in the world are concerned about the aggressive U.S. policy. I know that because we maintain relations with many countries in the world, with the Third World, which is very concerned about the U.S. interpretation of peace. They are very concerned about recent developments.

In this case, we are defending not only Cuba's rights. This is a war between David and Goliath. Another one. This time it is an electronic war between David and Goliath. Frankly, David is showing that he is more intelligent than Goliath. Why was Goliath, that biblical character, defeated? Because he was dumb. [laughter]

[Moderator] The next question will be asked by Antonio Cano of Spain's EL PAIS.

[Cano] Mr. President, several Latin American governments have assumed power through direct elections. Do you think this could be an opportunity for Cuba's integration into Latin America, and do you think that this could happen without changes taking place in Cuba?

[Castro] What kind of changes? Political, economic, or personal?

[Cano] I am asking you, whatever changes you think are necessary.

[Castro] I am asking you, too, to be able to answer your question. When you mentioned changes, you said without changes. Are you referring to changes in the economic system, or do you mean without changes, meaning a change in leadership? You began by saying that there have been elections and that many [governments] have been replaced. I am not sure of the meaning

of your question, but I can answer it in any sense. Please explain yourself, I am not going to [word indistinct] over it.

[Cano] I am simply asking you if you think that the right conditions exist for Cuba's incorporation into Latin America, and under what conditions do you think Cuba could accomplish that, in what way, if ...

[Castro, interrupting] Oh, gosh! [laughter] Look, as I said in Brazil, Cuba is the best-prepared country for Latin American integration. This does not directly answer your question. However, I can tell you that from our standpoint, as far as Cuba is concerned, I believe that it is better prepared than ever to support any serious effort for Latin American integration. You are asking me if conditions for integration are better now that some governments are being replaced.

Regarding integration, I say to you with absolute honesty that I believe there are too many slogans, speeches, and statements in favor of integration, but, in practice, there has been little progress. We cannot say that nothing has been achieved. There has been some progress, for example, in the steps taken by the Brazilian and Argentine Governments, and also in the steps taken by the Uruguayan Government. There have been some efforts there toward integrating Latin American economies.

However, it does not matter who is heading the government. What matters is that Latin American countries are facing enormous economic problems, such as debt problems; not only the foreign debt, but also what is called the social debt. There has been an attempt to estimate the social debt, and it is believed that it totals $300 billion in schools, hospitals, and houses that have not been built and in investments that have not been made to find solutions to social problems.

And then there is the foreign debt that totals $400 billion. In certain countries, large domestic debts compound the situation. From a socioeconomic standpoint, Latin American countries are facing a very difficult situation. Their governments are completely overwhelmed by this problem. They have little time to actually work on integration. They have few opportunities to do this.

Regarding integration, we could say that there is awareness or that there is increasingly greater awareness about it. There are even more political contacts and common political actions. We need integration more than ever; however, I would not say that we are currently moving with firmness and determination toward achieving Latin American economic integration.

I received news about a very important Latin American country—Mexico. I read a few press agency reports saying there is progress toward establishing a free-trade agreement between the United States and Mexico. In other words, I understand there is progress toward establishing a more visible and clear—a more obvious form of—economic integration than the process that is currently taking place in South America between Brazil and Argentina.

I believe that we must follow up on this. For my part, I view this with concern because we could be running the risk of seeing other forms of integration between Latin American countries and the United States materialize before we establish true integration among Latin American countries. As a Latin American, I obviously feel great appreciation for Mexico, and I would hardly criticize Mexican policy or the steps taken by the Mexican Government because it is a government that has always been very friendly toward and respectful of Cuba.

I observe all these economic phenomena and processes, and we would really like an opportunity to integrate all the Latin American countries' economies—or else we would be losing one of the nations, one of the countries, that has an enormous influence and importance in this hemisphere. I think that the time Latin American countries have lost in this struggle, in this front....[changes thought] We do not know what the consequences of this will be in the future. I believe it is important because there is no future for Latin America without integration. There is no destiny for Latin American without integration.

For example, Europe, which spent centuries at war—where people spent centuries at war—cannot imagine the economy of any of its countries without integration, and they are industrialized countries. They will practically eliminate their borders by 1992 through their trade exchange, investments, and movement of personnel. It is clearly seen that our people have no future without integration, which represents a vital issue for the future of all our people and something we must realize and continue to struggle for. However, right now there is no.... [changes thought] I cannot truly say that things have improved. The new president of Brazil emphasized this during his inaugural speech—that is, the Latin American integration policy—but we do not see many events; we do not see many achievements, in this regard so far. All we see are many statements.

[Moderator] Marta Anaya of the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR.

[Anaya] Good afternoon, Commander.

[Castro] Good afternoon.

[Anaya] Well, I will ask a somewhat strange question. You have seen that lately there is a tendency to discredit certain countries' leaders before strong actions are carried out. Such was the case with General Noriega. Progressive forces in Mexico have recently begun to change your image. They now refer to you as a man who has come to a standstill in history, in time—a reactionary. I would like to know your views on this. How, and within what context, do you consider this? Another thing—now that I hear you speak—sometimes you give

the impression.... [corrects herself] You seem tired or disappointed about certain things. I would like to know how you really feel.

[Castro] Well, let me tell you [chuckles], I feel well, very well. I do not really know why you used the subjective judgment that I might be somewhat sad or embittered or disappointed.

[Anaya] Disappointed.

[Castro] Tired or—what is the word?

[Anaya] Disappointed and tired.

[Castro] Well, I do not feel tired.

[Anaya] You appear to be.

[Castro] Thank goodness—my body or my brain?

[Anaya] Your face, your face, your face.

[Castro] My face? Of course, what else can you expect? I have a large crowd of journalists in front of me asking me all these questions [laughter], and a panel that does not help me! [laughter] Then, it is possible.... [changes thought] I have had a lot of work, and perhaps my face, well, my face.... [changes thought] How do you know that I am tired if you had not talked with me before? [laughter]

[Anaya] You had not talked to me, Commander.

[Castro] You have not even seen me up close.

[Anaya] But it is noticeable from here.

[Castro] From there?

[Anaya] Yes.

[Castro] Well, look, I will not be able to sleep very well tonight after what you have told me [laughter]—that I am too old and tired [chuckles]—but I can assure you that the mind is not tired, thank goodness. I do not know if it is because of the exercise. It is said that the organ that is not....how does it go? An organ that is not used atrophies? [laughter] Listen, we have been forced, we have been forced [repeats himself] to use the brain so much over the last 30 years that not even the best Olympic athletes would have been able to withstand the tests we have withstood, and that is how it has been, meaning the brain. I think—but it could be a subjective judgement—that it works. I do not say it [laughter] because I imagine it; I say it because I have participated in many debates, right?

Lately, I was in Brazil and that was something terrific: five television networks—four networks plus one regional station—five interviews. There were press interviews, all sorts of interviews. Often I was not able to sleep. Apparently, when I look tired is when I have slept. But when I work hard, hard, hard, hard [repeats himself], people tell me I do not look tired.

In regard to what you said about Mexico.... [changes thought] Look, to finish with your last question first—regarding what you said about disappointment. You must understand that a revolutionary cannot suffer disappointments. A person in love may be disappointed, but not a revolutionary. If you were to analyze the history of all of our lives and even of the Cuban revolution, you would have found many moments that could have discouraged anyone.

First, there was a coup d'etat. Such difficult conditions, that we had no resources, not even an organization. The [assault on the] Moncada [Barracks] had nothing to do with the setback after Moncada, or the setback after the Granma. Throughout these years of revolutionary struggle, we have gone through so many difficult moments that if we were susceptible to disappointment or fatigue, we would not have gone so far.

But there is something else. From a political point of view, this is one of the most difficult moments for the progressive movement, for the revolutionary movement, that has been experienced in practically the entire century. Nonetheless, we are not disappointed. On the contrary, our country is not the leaders; it is not I; it is the others.

I do not know if these boys might have tired faces too, and they have been fighting with their [words indistinct]. It is the people; it is not a man; it is the people who voice an admirable spirit of struggle, who do not get discouraged. I think this is one of the most noteworthy characteristics.

Today, all of the hatred in the United States is directed against Cuba. As it turns out, there is an empire. Is there one or not? What do the Mexican progressives say about that?

[Anaya] It does exist.

[Castro] They say the empire exists, right? And against whom is the empire fighting? On whom is the empire concentrating all of its strength, all of its hostility, all of its threats, all of its propaganda, right now, all of its machinery? Against Cuba! It is not against anyone else, but against Cuba. I think that if Cuba, throughout the length of its revolutionary history, ever had any reasons for being respected, for being recognized and admired, it is right now, at this time.

Perhaps some are disappointed; some might be tired—perhaps some who at one time considered themselves progressive. But what is being progressive today? Being next to Cuba or being next to the United States? And when Cuba is left practically alone and it is confronting that power, can anyone doubt Cuba then? There are some people who at one time were communists, but today they want to be forgiven for having been communists.

Have you not seen how people are changing their colors? How parties, organizations, and even countries are changing names? There are also communists, former

communists, who, to be forgiven for being communists, today have to attack Cuba. Great! They should instead attack the United States, imperialism, and delve deeply into its ideology, and recognize the service that Cuba is nowadays providing to the [socialist] revolution at this special juncture.

We did not seek this role. This role came to us from who knows where. What is Cuba today? Cuba is the symbol of resistance; Cuba is the symbol of the firm and intransigent defense of revolutionary ideas; Cuba is the symbol of the defense of revolutionary principles; Cuba is the symbol of the defense of socialism. I believe that this is a huge task—I am not saying too huge a task—because if there is anything larger than the problems we have it is the people that we can count on. [applause]

I believe that those people will rise to take on their historic responsibility. Comrade, recent world developments must have created confusion in many places. You realize that. I believe that we must clarify those confusions, dispel those confusions.

And what must we do to be applauded? Run to Washington? Fold our flag? Sell our soul? Is that what we must do? Run toward capitalism? What must we do? Comrade, we have no doubts about this. However, I agree with you that there is confusion in those sectors; there is true confusion, but we must wonder how much progressive thinking there is left in many people, in those who regarded themselves as progressives or who were even indeed progressives.

It was easy to be progressive at a given moment; it was in vogue. Do you know what is in vogue today? Neoliberalism and capitalism. I do not know who those who changed their colors will be able to deceive. Imagine if we changed our name tomorrow. Imagine if we said: Gentlemen, Congress decided that, instead of the Communist Party of Cuba, we will now call it the Socialist Party of Cuba or the Social Democratic Party of Cuba.

Do you believe that we would truly deserve any respect? Those who change colors have changed their ideas or ahave lost all confidence in their ideas. They have lost their convictions. I believe that the firmness with which we are defending those convictions is the best evidence that we are not disappointed or frustrated.

[Report] [Passage indistinct].

[Castro] What? And what do you mean by being stubborn? What about the heroic children of Chapultepec? Were they a bunch of stubborn people [pounds on podium] because they refused to fold the Mexican flag and instead jumped off the castle? Are those the stubborn ones? If so, bless the stubborn people of this world; bless those who defend their flag. [applause]

[Moderator] The next question will be from Jose de Cordoba, of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

[De Cordoba] Commander, a few days ago the Miami press said that a high-ranking Cuban Government official had said that if the United States had not launched TV Marti, Cuba would have had to invent it. Some government officials in Washington believe this, as it allows Cuba to distract the Cuban people's attention from the ideological crumbling of the Socialist bloc to the TV Marti issue. Do you agree with that?

[Castro] Look, first of all, this is based on the assumption that a government official made that statment. I ...[changes thought] A Cuban official? I do not know who could have said that, I do not recall anyone saying that. It could have been said by a U.S. Government official, or by an agent. There is no doubt that this aggression and any aggression, all this hostility and war, far from weakening the revolution strengthens it, because it boosts the people's patriotism, honor, pride, dignity, and self-respect. Our people have a lot of self-respect; I do not know when the United States will finally realize this. That is a fact. What will never be true is that we invent conflicts to heighten the people's patriotism, or to strengthen the revolution. That would be dishonest, and immoral. Now, what you just mentioned has some truth to it. Doing all these things against the revolution is stupid. The more they attack the revolution and the more stupid things they do, the more our revolution will become stronger. However, I must tell you in all sincerity that we do not need this [TV Marti] trash to strengthen the ideology of our revolution in the face of the disaster in East Europe.

All this has had an effect, many things have an effect on all countries, in any country, including ours. The problem is that first we must see what country we are talking about; what level of education, of political culture, of political awareness, of revolutionary awareness that country has; all those factors that characterize the people must be... [does not finish sentence].

. or a long time our people have been strengthening their revolutionary spirit, their political awareness. They have been aware of all their problems, so there is not the slightest need for a new problem. There are problems in the world every day. Can you think of anything that had more impact than the invasion of Panama? It occurred on 22 December [as heard], I believe. Do you not think that such actions have an impression on our people, taught them a lesson, and increased their patriotism and hatred for U.S. injustice, aggression and arrogance? Do you not think that the dirty war in Panama ...[corrects himself] in Nicaragua during the past 10 years has contributed to creating an awareness among the people? Do you not think that the same things that happened in East Europe will contribute toward increasing our people's awareness and will make them study the factors that caused that catastrophe? Do you not think that people realize that a revolution can never make concessions to the enemy because concessions lead to capitulation and desertion?

Do you think our people will not learn from that disaster? Revolutions must be authentic and each group of people must have their own. Revolutions cannot be imported or exported. A revolution as deep as socialism, which emerged for the first time after thousands of years of human civilization is incompatible with many of our individualist and selfish characteristics, etcetera.

For a revolution of this kind to be solid and invincible, it must be authentic. Our revolution was not given to us as a gift by anyone; it was not brought to us by anyone; it was not loaned to us from anyone; it was not imported by anyone. It was made by us. That is why this revolution cannot be confused with any other political processes that may have taken place elsewhere. Our people know about these things.

We do not need this rubbish of TV Marti, this insult to the country's honor—because we have not mentioned the meaning of the fact that they have given Marti's name to that rude instrument of subversion and destabilization. First, because it ignores who Marti was. Marti was the first one who began to talk about U.S. imperialism and the empire, even before Lenin. Marti characterized the rising U.S. empire as a monster, which he knew very well because he had lived in its midst. The have chosen the name of the one who said he died to prevent the United States...from extending with greater force over the American nations. They chose that name to baptize that rubbish at a time when we are a trench here—the first trench—which defends Latin America's sovereignty. In addition, it is—so that the North Americans understand it well—as if we took for a whorehouse somewhere in the world and gave it the name George Washington; or a garbage dump in Havana, and we gave it George Washington's name, or some historical U.S. figure's name. That is what they have done. They do not realize—they are stupid, they are imbeciles—they do not realize how much this irritates the people.

We did not need that and we did not have to invent that, but I would agree with you entirely if you explain your question. It was a stupid thing to have given that name to the television station.

[Moderator] It now Jorge Alberto Muraciolli's turn from Argentina's NUEVO SUR newspaper.

[Castro] NUEVO what?

[Moderator] NUEVO SUR.

[Muraciolli] Do you think that if the aggression objectives of TV Marti are fulfilled, this could potentially lead to the creation of an opposition in Cuban society?

[Castro] Actually I think it would promote a more solid union. That is what it would produce in Cuban society. It would produce a greater hatred against the U.S. Government, but first let us see how they are going to establish themselves. It would first have to pass the test and truly establish itself. Who knows how many things it would first have to overcome? This action really makes the people angry. An opposition is not based on lies. An opposition is not made with psychological wars. Some of their subversive plans could be successful if we crossed our arms, did not take action, and did not politically fight against these types of phenomena. Anything else?

[Muraciolli] No, that is enough. Thank you.

[Moderator] Now it is Jorge Emilio Gonzalez Villa's turn from Italian news agency ANSA.

[Gonzalez] Commander Fidel Castro, do you think it is possible that the United States will...

[Castro, interrupting] Wait, let me see you. Yes?

[Gonzalez] Do you think it is possible that the United States will launch a surgical military operation against the towers that jam the TV Marti signal like the operation against Qadhdhafi in Libya?

[Castro] Well, in that case, we would try to make the surgeon come out as badly as possible from the operation. [laughter] We would make him pay a price for that. Surgery is not that easy. Grasping a tiger by the tail is not that easy. I know that they have technology and all that, but we have another kind of technology, particularly a moral kind. Above all, we are not afraid of them, and we are ready to fight in any terrain. They should know that they better not try to play a game with us, that they should not try to perform any surgery, because we can also practice surgery in any terrain. I must tell you that the any attack on Cuba could become a much more serious problem, a more complex problem. It could become a war.

Thus, carrying out operations of this kind against our country can....[changes thought] No one knows what consequences this might have. We will not remain idle. Understand? We will not remain idle because we have imagination. We will reply blow by blow, wherever the blow must be dealt and whenever the blow must be dealt. No one should have any doubts about this. I hope they consider this completely before they show their technology. Perhaps they will come with their invisible airplanes and we can make other invisible things, too. [laughter heard in the background] Let them interpret this as they want. [laughter heard in the background]

[Moderator] Please, Roman Orozco, CAMBIO 16 and DIARIO 16, Spain.

[Orozco] Commander, you have said several times that you do not want to accept the changes proposed from the United States because this would weaken the revolution and Cuba, and because you consider the United States your enemy. What is your view about the counsel given by persons like Felipe Gonzalez or Carlos Andres Perez about democratizing or making certain changes in Cuba? They do seem to be your friends.

[Castro] Then you must know more than I do [laughter heard in the background] because Felipe and Carlos Andres did not tell me that. Felipe and Carlos Andres

said they were quite concerned about the new international situation. They were quite concerned that we could be the victims of U.S. military aggression. That is what they said. They were quite concerned. They should know why because they have contacts with high-ranking U.S. officials, and they had recently talked with Quayle and other leaders.

I did not want to question them extensively about the exact words or phrases. I saw that they were quite concerned and sincere. They said that our strategy could not be the strategy of resistance. They talked about Numancia and Sagunto, two historical....[changes thought] I do not know if people study history today; in my time we studied history but [Castro laughs] they were famous Spanish cities which had heroically fought against the Roman legions, and they became the prototypes of resistance.

They said, particularly Felipe, that they did not want Cuba's destiny to be like Sagunto's destiny, or Numancia's destiny. They did not talk about democratic changes, of course. They were very respectful because I could have told them what kind of democratic changes they thought we needed. I could have asked them what could be more democratic than a true and profound socialist revolution.

If there is one country in the world where the people have greater participation, it is Cuba. I could show that our democratic mechanisms—and I do not want to force anyone to believe it—are much more democratic than the best democratic mechanisms there could ever be. We are close to being an authentic Greek democracy, that is, because of the participation by the people and by the way in which the authorities are elected here.

This has even led to certain disputes, because some have made some comparisons. Some press agency reports were sent to Spain, and then the excellent relations that I have with Felipe and the king were practically threatened by those press agency reports. These relations are not too close or too friendly, but they are respectful relations. Some of the reports referred to some comparisons I made and that I do not wish to repeat.

They asked me a question, and they—both Carlos Andres and Felipe—can discuss this. They know how to argue over this, and they could discuss any subject, including the subject of democracy.

However, they did not refer to me in those terms, you understand? They said I could not carry out a strategy against resistance, and that we had to meditate, think, and prepare ideas on this subject. That is what they told me. I appreciated very much their deep concern for our country. Their concepts are different. Yes, we prefer Sagunto and Numancia [Spanish towns during the Roman Empire who resisted the seige of Hannibal] to being slaves. We would not be the first ones, nor would this be the first time in history this has happened. The world is filled with thousands of examples of people who preferred to die rather than becoming slaves.

The history of Spain has many such examples. When Napoleon invaded Spain with the most powerful army of that time, the Spanish villagers started to wage a war against Napoleon, and they won the war against Napoleon. That is something admirable!

Many people throughout history have acted in a similar manner. A few minutes ago, I mentioned the young heroes of Mexico. Do you want a better example than that? When the United States invaded Mexico and took over more than half of its territory, it entered Mexico City. When the United States took over the School of Cadets, those cadets wrapped themselves in a flag and killed themselves. All Mexicans are proud of that. All countries are proud of their heroes. We are also proud of our heroes.

We fought alone against Spain for nearly 30 years. This small country fought two wars. That is tremendous! We also had the Baragua protest, the protest by Jose Maceo. After the first war that lasted 10 years, the tired forces—many of the leaders were exhausted—accepted peace proposals without independence. However, a Cuban general—one of the most brilliant generals of Cuba and of America—then rebelled against the agreements and refused to abide by those agreements that had been reached. That is called the Baragua protest.

All nations have their history, all nations have their history [repeats himself], and we have our history too. We present the spirit of Baragua, and not the spirit of the Zanjon. If to survive here we have to make concessions to imperialism and do what imperialism wants, we will never do that, ever. We will not do that!

What right does imperialism have to tell us what we have to do; to tell us what socioeconomic system we have to develop; to tell us what political methods or electoral methods, or whatever, we have to use?

What right does the United States have to make demands and impositions on us? [pounds podium] There is one more thing: Those who believe that they will survive by making concessions to the enemy are lost. The courageous ones, those who resist, those who fight, will survive. We will be neither Sagunto nor Numancia, because we will not only resist, but we will also win.

We say this because we believe our words and have reason to believe in them. A U.S. military attack against Cuba would have such a high cost that it would be unpayable. It would be a war without any front or rearguards or anything. It would be a war in all places, not only inside Cuba, but also outside Cuba. We have prepared our people for many years to resist, even in case of a complete occupation of the territory.

I do not wish to say things that might seem to be exaggerations, but we know what we can actually count on, and we know the cost that the United States would have to pay for invading Cuba. The cost is so high that it

is unpayble. We do not want them to make a mistake, because we do not want to pay the cost of a U.S. invasion either. We do not.

We do not want them to receive another lesson at our expense. We do not want them to relive Vietnam at the expense of the Cuban people's blood. We obviously do not want this to happen, but if it does, it would be because there is no other option. However, if forced to make concessions or surrender to imperialism, we would rather face death, which would not be the inevitable result we believe, because they would have to leave sooner or later.

The number of their dead and the conditions that we would create would be such that they would not be able to stay in this country. This has been demonstrated. No country, regardless of how small, can be subdued by a power, regardless of how large it may be.

There are many lessons available to us. Even the Sahrawi, who are a relatively small people, have been fighting for 10 years in a desert where there is not even a tree against walls and more walls and thousands of kilometers of walls, and electronic mechanisms, and everything that exists. Whenever a people have resisted, they have won. That is my comment. Anything else. Where are you? I am looking that way, because I hear...

[Orozco, interrupting] I am glad because you make us reporters nervous by staring at us.

[Castro] I am glad that you get nervous, because I get nervous, too. [laughter]

[Orozco] I need an explanation: Would that policy not entail leading your country to a virtual collective suicide? Is is not a kind of suicidal policy...?

[Castro, interrupting] And why does it have to be suicidal?

[Orozco] Because it is so inflexible. That is my question.

[Castro] Must we surrender? Why are we suicidal? Since when is it suicidal to fight for one's country? What did the Soviets do when they were invaded? When they faced millions of soldiers and thousands of tanks and planes? They sustained 20 million dead. Must we condemn the Soviets for resisting nazism? Must we condemn the Yugoslavs for resisting nazism and fighting the Nazi Army? Must we condemn resistance in Europe? Must we condemn Vietnam for not surrendering, even though it was attacked by hundreds of thousands of soldiers and planes and a powerful fleet?

Why come up with an antiresistance theory? Latin Americans fought for their independence. Bolivar did so and even when an earthquake, which destroyed Caracas, took place amid the independence struggle, he said: If nature fights against us, we will fight against nature.

Spain is your fatherland. You are a Spaniard, right?

[Orozco] Yes, I am.

[Castro] Are you Spaniards going to come to teach us lessons on how to be wise?

[Orozco] No, we will come as tourists, to bring foreign exchange.

[Castro] What?

[Orozco] We will come as tourists and will bring foreign exchange.

[Castro] Well, well, that is great, very good. Come over and bring foreign exchange. That is very good. I am happy about that, fine. [laughter] However, that theory has been drafted. It is a philosophical matter. Should one resist or should one struggle? You [Spaniards] spent 700 years fighting the Moors—700 years! Was that not suicide? You fought against Napoleon's troops and defeated them. Was that not suicide? However, I still see Spaniards around. At least I see you here. If it were not for those suicides, you would not be here. You would be a Frenchman now. [laughter, applause]

[Unidentified speaker] It seems that the most brilliant [words indistinct].

[Castro] [Words indistinct] My only disappointment is that that very pretty lady said I was tired. [laughter] A Mexican lady said that. Wonderful! Let us prove that is not true. Not to her, to all of you. [Castro laughs]

[Moderator] Since this interview has been going on for two hours, we believe we can give the last question to Estela Caloni of the Mexican newspaper EL DIA and the Buenos Aires newspaper SUR.

[Castro] Are there two [journalists] from SUR? One of them already asked a question.

[Moderator] NUEVO SUR.

[Castro] Oh, the NUEVO SUR.

[Caloni] There are about three SUR newspapers. Commander, there is a wave of pessimism by people who say: There has been a political earthquake in the world. An earthquake causes slides. Some manage to come off well, others come off badly. However, those who turned out well, let us say in the First World, which seems to be so triumphant, are they actually as well off as they believe they are? Another question: Can a strike-force policy or threats of low-intensity war be imposed for a long period of time, in view of the conditions of the Third World? Could you answer this question?

[Castro] Regarding the situation of the First World, of a group of countries that compose the so-called First World, from my economic point of view, they appear to be fine. That world is made up of those who for centuries looted us, those who got financing, or who financed their development at the cost of our sacrifice and our blood. I am talking about the group of countries that were colonized and sacked, which are located in Latin America,

Africa, and Asia. I believe that they not only looted us for centuries, they continue looting us, more than ever. When I visited Brazil, at the Latin American Memorial, I said that just what is currently being taken out of Latin America by those First World countries in one year exceeds what they looted in three centuries. I said we were the new Indians. There [in Brazil] they were paying homage to a well-known anthropologist who lived among the Indians for 50 years and devoted his life to defending them. I said we need many more men like him, so that they can struggle along with us.

I made an estimate of the gold that was taken away from America by the European colonists. The gold and ...[changes thought] compared to what they are taking away today. I should have previously mentioned that net capital is currently being taken out of Latin America for a total of $25 to $30 billion. This does not include unfair trade relations or the flight of capital, which is huge.

I estimated that a net $30 billion was leaving Latin America. This is a conservative figure. This figure is the equivalent of 3,000 tons of gold. That is what is being taken out of Latin America each year because the number of us, Indians has increased. Our productivity is greater than that of the Indians.

I once asked a historian to add the figures up and a few days ago, I saw an article in a Cuban newspaper or magazine, which stated that the quantity of gold taken out of Latin America in three centuries was around 700 million or rather 700 tons. It was either 300 or 700 tons. I think it was a smaller figure. They also took away 16,000 tons of silver. All of this is less than what the First World countries are taking away from Latin America, alone. I am not talking about the other continents. Well, all their wealth and opulence is based on looting our countries.

Of course, following the changes taking place in Europe, these First World countries want to turn the former socialist countries into new capitalist countries, which will participate in this looting. They are inviting them to participate in this looting. Of course, it will not be easy because it will take some time before capitalism is installed with the efficiency that exists in the First World. To have successful capitalism, not only capital is needed, but also capitalists and businessmen, which they do not have.

We already know about the things that are taking place in Poland, for example. They are well-known facts. A war is almost taking place between Lech Walesa and the Polish prime minister. They disagree with each other. Last week, they were already talking about starting a strike in Gdansk in the famous shipyards.

Another solidarity movement is being born. I believe it is called Solidarity 80, and it accuses Walesa and the government of implementing austerity policies that the people cannot tolerate; their real income has dropped by half.

So there is an interesting phenomenon for historians and political scientists to study now. They will study the phenomenon of the construction of capitalism in those countries. That is one of the duties taken on by the First World. It is currently a First World priority. Let us see what will come out of all this. Up to now things had been going well as long as our countries allowed themselves to be looted.

How long will this situation last?

I doubt this can last very long. The Latin American situation reflects this. For example, the overall inflation rate in Latin America amounts to 1,000 percent. Some countries have higher inflation rates, others have less. In your country, I think the inflation rate amounted to about 3,500 percent, right? This is more or less, right? In Brazil, the inflation rate amounted to about 1,476 percent, if I am not mistaken. I had this information, although there are various figures about this. So you see, little girl, I have a good memory. [laughter] [Castro chuckles] In Peru, there was about 3,000 percent, more or less.

That is the situation of the Latin American countries. This is something that cannot be controlled. When the dollar is having problems, the yen, the Deutsche Mark, the French franc, the Italian lira, the Britsh pound, they all rush to support the dollar. If the Mark or the pound sterling is having problems, all the other currencies rush to support it. They have no problems. They tell us that we should not have any trade imbalance, but the main country of that group had a trade imbalance of $100 plus billion about 12 years ago. They are telling our countries not to have trade imbalances, to export more, to import less, to invest profits, and to pay our debts. That is what they are demanding of us, while all of them, nearly all of them, but the main one is the United States, have a balance of over $100 billion.

Under such circumstances, I do not see any solution for the economic problems of the Third World. I just do not see it. I do not see any solution to the economic and social problems; I do not see any solution to the development problems. I do not want to go on about this. Nonethess, I have so many reasons for saying this: There is just no solution.

During this tour, in many of those interviews, I made a comparison between the social situation of Latin America and that of Cuba, but above all, I spoke about the social situation of Latin America. The infant mortality rate is 65 out of every 1,000 born alive; 85 die between the first five years. Well, in Cuba, the infant mortality rate is 11.1 percent. It is far below that of any other developed country, and it is becoming one of the top rates among the developed countries; and we are from the Caribbean, from the Third World.

In the social situation, there is growing illiteracy and poverty. Yesterday, a wire report said that there are 220 million Latin Americans who are poor and very poor. These inflation problems are not improving, but they are

worsening. On nutrition, we can say that 25 percent of the Latin American population is malnourished. Thirty percent of the Latin American population is underemployed or unemployed.

I visited one of the richest cities of Latin America, actually, the richest city of Latin America. I visited Sao Paulo, the richest city of Latin America. It has over 20,000 industries, they told me. Lula told me so when I talked with him. He is an industrial worker who was explaining these things to me. They have 17 million people in the metropolitan area. I talked with the city mayor of Sao Paulo. She does not really belong to those 17 million people, as she comes from an even smaller area. In Brazil, there is the metropolitan area and several municipalities. At any rate, she told me: I have 300,000 children without schools; 300,000 children without schools. She said this with great sorrow.

She also said: There is an area with a population of 3 million that does not have a single hospital, an area of 3 million inhabitants which did not have a single hospital.

This occurs in the most developed and prosperous cities, like New York. It has a area of magnificent buildings, and what do you see right beside those buildings? Millions and millions of people living in slum houses [fabelas]. Cities have grown without any order. People go there looking for work and a solution to their problems. They build their houses any way they can. All the high rise apartments are crowded.

This happens not only in Sao Paulo, but also in Rio de Janeiro and Caracas, in Latin America's wealthiest countries. Caracas receives thousands of millions of dollars every year from oil exports, and 60 percent of the population is living in slum neighborhoods in the cities' outskirts. We are not talking about Peru now. Everybody knows the situation in Lima, a city with a population of 6 million inhabitants, of which 4 million live in slum neighborhoods.

Instead of improving, that problem is getting worse. The problems of education, unemployment, housing, and nutrition have not lessened; instead, they have increased. The situation has not improved, but worsened. During the past few years problems have worsened with the foreign debt crisis. There is no growth. The growth in 1989 was 0.7 percent. Now they have the GNP they had in the 1970's. Is there some genius who can tell us how to solve those problems?

Objectively, I see that those problems are worsening. Therefore, we can talk about an abundance in that First World you mentioned over a volcano that can explode anytime. That volcano is in the Third World, and no one has a solution for those problems. Therefore, I believe that we are far from a solution.

Capitalism will not solve the problem. I said to the mayor: In 30 years of socialist revolution, we have solved what Latin America has not solved in 200 years. Our people's educational level has already surpassed that of the United States. Our health statistics are similar to United States' and in some cases even higher. The capital of the United States has three times the child mortality rate during the first year of life than Havana. This is the empire's capital. Of course, the population ...[corrects himself] this is a city with a large Negro population. The indexes may be good for the white or rich people, but for Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Negroes, the indexes are ...[changes thought] there is a terrible imbalance in the United States.

Compare the status of women in our country with those in Latin America: 58 percent of the technicians in our country are women, 58 percent [repeats himself] and this percentage is growing. When I mentioned this to the Brazilians, to the Brazilian Christians and intellectuals, they were surprised to learn about the figures I gave them on women's participation, the fact that they already represent 38 percent of the country's labor force, the great number of child care centers we have created so that those women could really join the country's activities and acquire a level of equality that Latin American women are far from achieving. They were surprised to learn about the schools that are similar to boarding schools, and the scholarships available for approximately 1 million youths, which has made it possible for women to work. I also told them about the special schools, and that in two or three years, of course if there is not a great war, if we are not invaded, and if we are not affected by any other phenomenon, we hope to matriculate 100 percent of the children who need special schools.

There are 85,000 and we have already registered 60,000. No other country in the world has done this; not the United States, France, or Great Britain. Forget it. I have explained this reality to the Latin Americans. And I have not mentioned the abandoned children. There are more than 30 million abandoned children in the streets in Latin America. More than 30 million!

Those are very dramatic figures. I do not see any future in this. I see none. And these countries continue to be looted and to be net capital exporters. Where is the future for all these countries? All this will lead to an explosion. This is why I say—amid the pessimism—that this system that prevails in the world has no future. [pounds on podium] Those development models that they exported to Third World countries have no future.

The habit to consume has no future. I have in the past wondered what would happen if India adopted the French model; if China adopted French and U.S. models. Those two countries put together contain 2 billion inhabitants. What future would they have? How long would the gas last? How long would petroleum last? How long would the ever-less-available or contaminated oxygen last?

This is reality. This overconfidence will not last for long. Today's overconfidence is short-lived, because the world is far from being a paradise. The world is far from having

solved its problems. The problems are actually worsening. They are still there. The volcano is there. It is among that enormous mass of people called the developing countries. This is a lie; they are not developing but underdeveloped countries, because the abyss between Third World and developed nations is growing; it is widening. That is today's reality. I do not see what the basis is for the overconfidence they are exhibiting.

I believe that their overconfidence will be short-lived; that people will react to all this. The world's revolutionary and progressive forces will once again raise their heads along with their morale. Is that what you were wondering about? Anything else?

[Calloni] Is that why Europeans consider Third World peoples to be dangerous?

[Castro] They believe that we are dangerous?

[Calloni] Yes.

[Castro] That is because we indeed are. [laughter]

[Garcia] This news conference is about to end. Commander, would you like to add anything else?

[Castro] I only want to thank you all for your kindness and patience. I have been open to answering all your questions. However, I believe that we have all worked hard today. I also believe that the main—not all—questions have in one way or another been asked here. Is that not so? Very well, thank you very much. [applause]

Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia

FL0304205890 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1934 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Our country and the recently created Republic of Namibia today established diplomatic relations in a solemn ceremony in Windhoek. The official document establishing relations between the two countries was signed by Namibian Foreign Minister Theo Ben Gurirab and by Alcibiades Hidalgo, who headed the Cuban diplomatic mission observing that territory's transition to independence.

Cuba and Namibia agreed that the official date for the beginning of bilateral ties will be 21 March, the date that nation became the last colonial bastion of black Africa to be liberated.

The text establishing relations stresses the common identity between the two nations in the fight against colonialism and racism, and also the mutual desire to develop relations of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples.

Castro Talks With Evangelical Representatives

FL0304183390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a meeting with 74 representatives from various evangelical denominations in response to a request from Pastor Raul Suarez, president of the Cuban Ecumenical Council. Of the 74 participants, 17 spoke in the dialogue, some more than once. They expressed the similarity between Christian principles and the ideals of the revolution. They also discussed the willingness of the different denominations represented to contribute to revolutionary work and their support for our party's positions in defending our country's sovereignty and dignity.

In a climate of cordiality and openness, various formulations were also presented about the alliance between Christians and Marxists, and also some problems of discrimination against believers which can still be seen, especially at the middle levels. Fidel explained the historical origin of these phenomena and practices, and the reasons they have not yet been completely overcome. He referred to his speech to the Christian communities based in Brazil.

Fidel stressed the party leadership's awareness of the need to consolidate unity among the people between revolutionary believers of all churches and denominations and Marxists, as a fundamental contribution to the unity of all patriots around the socialist project. In this regard he emphasized the firm political will, expressed in the call for the fourth party congress, to put an end to the vestiges of any kind of discrimination in our society. The commander in chief praised the maturity, revolutionary spirit, and patriotic fervor that marked the participants' words.

British Virgin Islands

Chief Minister To Attend London Drug Summit

FL0304170290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1439 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Road Town, Tortola, April 3, CANA—Chief Minister H. Lavity Stoutt is to represent the British Virgin Islands at a world ministerial drugs summit in London next week.

Conference participants will try to find ways of reducing drug demand and will seek to identify ways in which international co-operation can most effectively be targeted to combat the production and trafficking of cocaine.

Participation is open to member states and the non-member observer states of the United Nations. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will be among the speakers.

The meeting will be split into two committees; one on demand reduction and one on the cocaine threat.

"Drug abuse is not the problem of one country alone. It is the problem of the nation growing the plant from which the drug is produced and it is the problem of the countries it passed through on its way to where demand is the problem," said Stoutt.

"Meetings like these where the international community can meet to design a joint reaction to the issues raised by drug abuse are of extreme importance," he added.

Haiti

Part 1 of Aristide Interview on Current Juncture

FL0304011090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Father Jean Bertrand Aristide in an interview granted reporter Nancy Roc expressed his opinions on the current juncture. Insecurity, politics, the Army, and the government were all discussed during this interview. Here is part of it.

[Begin recording] [Roc] We are currently at a crossroads which is historic for our country: an essential but extremely difficult bend in the road, that of the transition to democracy. The 29 March demonstration commemorating the third anniversary of our Constitution was perceived—particularly among the political parties—as a victory of democratic forces over the hard-line Duvalierist forces. First of all, Father Aristide, do you agree with this? And what, in your opinion, has this demonstration contributed to the current juncture?

[Aristide] A victory, yes and no. Yes, because the Haitian people expressed their will. The population thrust aside fear and took back control of the streets. In that sense, we can say it was a victory. Yes, it was a victory in that the population was able to momentarily resurrect the constitution. That was very good, seen from that angle. However, at the same time, no, for we still have not seen the macoutes taken to court. The big candidates—with that word between quotation marks—from the 1987 elections, who proffered threats against the population, who provoked and organized the 29 November massacre, are still circulating. They are still here and have neither been arrested nor brought to trial. That is why I cannot speak of victory without at the same time rectifying things, stressing this most capital fact—that the population's demands are still in suspension. Until those men are in court or in jail, I myself shall not speak of victory.

[Roc] Father Aristide, speaking of the problem of insecurity, it still exists—even though one sees there has been a sort of truce in effect these last few days. A week ago you asked that the authors of the crimes perpetrated over the last four years be arrested before 29 March. This was not done. Nevertheless, the Ministry of Interior did issue a communique at the end of the week giving undercover detectives 72 hours to turn in their weapons. The deadline expired this weekend. First, in your opinion, what should the government now do? And second, do you think the Army is capable, or even willing, to solve this serious problem of insecurity in Haiti?

[Aristide] Let us point the finger at, on the one hand, the government and, on the other hand, the Army. The government still has a choice. Either it chooses the Haitian people's path, that is, arrests and brings to trial the criminals of which I spoke a moment ago to provide security for the Haitian people—or it chooses the path of the macoutes, that is, talking politically about reconciliation without at the same time evoking justice to make it a reality. If the government chooses the first path, the outcome will be a demacoutization followed by elections. If the government refuses to go in the direction of the population, it is headed for failure because we are soon going to find ourselves facing these criminals, criminals with weapons in hand and horns fully erect against both the people and the government. I am convinced of this. I think my analysis is luminous. I am drawing my inspiration from history and from macoute reality, to speak in these terms.

Now, what about the Army. The Army certainly does not have the desire to demacoutize itself. Too many interests both political and economic are intertwined, giving us what we have as an Army—that is, an Army of occupation. And it has been this way since 1915. Nevertheless, one can find within this Army individuals still prompted by good faith. Many people do not believe this, but I myself do. [passage omitted]

[Aristide] And should the executive, for its part, be content to listen only to the macoutes, to the big Duvalierists, to the big criminals; or to listen to the diplomatically imperialist American voice, and turn a deaf ear to the Council of State; I am convinced that before long we will have either a coup d'etat by the hard-line macoutes, or a government incapable of dominating the situation so as to have it lead to democratic elections. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The second part of this interview that Jean Bertrand Aristide granted Nancy will be aired tomorrow.

Hinche Barracks Revolt Against New Commander

FL0304180390 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpts] We have learned that the soldiers of the Hinche garrison rebelled yesterday to protest the appointment of Colonel Henri Robert Augustin as commanding officer of that military garrison. A press release says that Augustin, the former commanding officer of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Zone, has been transferred from the position of deputy chief of the General Staff, G2, at Haitian Armed Forces General Headquarters, to the position of commanding officer of the Military Department of the Center.

We learned yesterday that the soldiers stationed at the barracks in Hinche did a lot of shooting to show they are

not happy with this appointment. They do not want Augustin at the Hinche barracks. We will have you listen to our correspondent's report.

[Begin recording] There were bursts of automatic weapons fire in Hinche. This caused panic throughout town. Parents with children in school were frantic because they did not know what was going on.

When we went to the Charlemagne Peralte Barracks in Hinche, we saw that it was the soldiers firing off numbers of rounds. We immediately talked to the soldiers, who informed us that the general headquarters had just sent Col. Augustin to the military department as department commanding officer and that they do not want anything to do with him anymore. This is because the minute he arrived in the military department he began giving them many macoute-type orders, and also because he was 100 percent behind Avril. The soldiers said it looks as if Avril left behind a special mission for that colonel to settle with them, particularly with the soldiers who were formerly at the Dessalines Barracks and at the Leopards Camp. These soldiers banded together with all the soldiers of the 14th Company stationed in Hinche and this morning revolted en masse against Col. Henri Robert Augustin, saying they will have noting to do with him anymore. [passage omitted]

The soldiers are also revolting against Major Henri P. Germain who they claim is collaborating with Col. Augustin in connection with the macoute-type orders (?Augustin) is giving them. They are also revolting against Captain Roger Guerrier. [passage omitted]

As we said, there was considerable panic in Hinche, but at present there is apparent calm in town. The soldiers even threatened to set fire to the Hinche barracks if the general headquarters does not resolve their problem fairly soon. The soldiers are still in adamant revolt, but they are no longer firing their weapons. Thus, in contrast to all the shooting heard earlier, the town is now apparently calm. [passage omitted] [end recording]

That was a report we received from Nicolas Floranvil, our correspondent in Hinche, yesterday afternoon at approximately 1430. We tried to contact him again this morning, but have been unable to do so. We do not know how the situation regarding what is going on at the general headquarters of the Hinche military district has evolved. Thus, as far as we know, Col. Henri Robert Augustin is still being contested by the soldiers at the barracks in Hinche.

American Airlines Aircraft Hijacked on Tarmac

FL0304155590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Yesterday, American Airlines flight 658, an (A-300) airbus, was unable to fly to New York because of an act of piracy committed by Pierre Gerald, a soldier posted to the airport security service. Gerald boarded the plane armed with an UZI sub-machine gun to force the pilot to take him to the United States. This occurred at approximately 1445 as the plane was preparing to take off for New York from Port-au-Prince airport. The passengers were still in the waiting room when the soldier boarded the plane, after all the arriving passengers had left the plane.

American Airlines director Alix Lamar, airport director Carl Michel Nicolas, and Mr. Collins, U.S. military attache in Haiti, began negotiations with the soldier. [passage omitted]

The plane remains on the tarmac with the soldier aboard. The pilot and copilots disembarked through the back door while the passengers were disembarking, thus managing to get away.

The soldier was under arrest after an argument he had with an officer, Lieutenant Michel Joseph. That is reportedly why he committed this act of piracy against the American Airlines flight to New York yesterday afternoon.

The soldier spent the night aboard the plane. He closed the main door to the plane at exactly 2300 last night, after turning on a few lights in the plane. This morning he awakened at around 0730 and opened the back door and stuck his head out and looked around. The soldier had managed to turn off the plane's motors.

The pirate had the caterer with him yesterday afternoon. That is how he got on the plane. He accompanied the young man, along with the food for the passengers, onto the plane. He was armed but he never fired. We have learned that during the conversation he held with the airport director and the U.S. Embassy military attache, he said he had no intention of sabotaging the plane as long as his demands were met.

He also talked to two other soldiers who had been sent out to talk to him. Nevertheless, he remains adamant. He says he has to go to the United States.

Pierre Gerald is from northern Haiti and is some 20 years old. He has been in the Army for the past two years and is assigned to the security service at Mais Gate International Airport in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

The plane is still on the tarmac. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] We just called the airport and the latest information we have is that they sent soldiers to negotiate with him to see if they could convince him to get off the plane. He refused and said he was not going to get off, that he had to leave Haiti one way or another.

For its part, American Airlines has canceled all its flights to both New York and Miami. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Pierre Gerald is still on the plane, alone. He says he is not getting off the plane, that he must go to the United States—to be precise, New York. [passage omitted]

Trinidad and Tobago

Dismissed Minister Criticizes Venezuelan Project

FL0204160490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1523 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 1, CANA—A proposed joint venture fishing project between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela is a sellout, dismissed Works Minister John Humphrey has charged in Parliament.

Humphrey, who has characterised his expulsion from cabinet with a series of attacks on the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) government and Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, said the government was "making love to the Venezuelans while they're shooting our people in the gulf."

Negotiations on the deal which involves selling the National Fisheries Company (NFC) to the Venezuelans, were halted last week when a Venezuelan Guardia National Patrol fired on a Trinidadian fisherman in the Gulf of Paria which separates the South American mainland country and Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister of Industry, Enterprise, and Tourism Dr. Bhoe Tewarie responding to Humphrey's charges said that his government was "seeking to further develop bilateral, political, economic, and technical relations with neighbouring Venezuela as a demonstration of south-south co-operation."

Tewarie in his contribution to a motion brought before the House of Representatives by Humphrey concerning the negotiations for the sale, sought to reassure the house that there was "no underhand deal to sellout National Fisheries Company to Venezuela."

He stressed that the government was negotiating "an above-board bi-national venture with the Venezuelan Government for future operations of the financially-strapped enterprise."

Tewarie explained that Trinidad and Tobago will hold 51 per cent equity while Venezuela will hold the remaining 49 per cent and this would prevent a full scale exploitation of the country's fishing resources and one of its major ports of entry. He insisted that every effort would be made to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago's fisheries resources were not over-exploited by foreign groups.

But Humphrey countered that the deal was not a "government to government arrangement. It is no such thing. It is total and complete sellout." Humphrey alleged that the Trinidad and Tobago government had rejected four competing offers from TT 10 million dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) to TT 18 million dollars, from local and foreign interests.

Tewarie said the negotiations were prudent and stated that "the Venezuelans were receptive to the government's proposals, except three main issues of shareholding, price, and operating framework."

Government, Press React to Endara Criticism

PA0204174390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2340 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] The Mexican Government today responded to Panamanian President Guillermo Endara's severe criticism of Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana, saying that Solana "has not said anything" about Panama or its authorities.

Endara accused Solana on 31 March of saying that the Panamanian Government was illegal. The Panamanian president referred to Solana as someone who "talks like a fool" and belongs to "a corrupt party."

A communique released by the Mexican Foreign Secretariat, which referred to Endara simply as "Mr. Guillermo Endara," without calling him president, said that Mexico "will request an explanation through diplomatic channels."

According to a Foreign Secretariat source, who requested anonymity, Endara directed his displeasure at Mexico because of the joint statement released by the Group of Rio (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela) at the end of the sixth meeting of the group's foreign ministers held in Mexico City.

The joint communique noted that "the democratic legitimacy process in Panama requires an election with no foreign intervention to guarantee the full implementation of the people's right to freely choose the people who will govern them." The statement stressed the need "for foreign troops to limit their activities to their military bases exclusively."

The succint Mexican communique, only three paragraphs, said that Solana did not address Panama personally or for the Mexican Government. The document, however, confirms the contents of the Group of Rio's communique, "which includes Panama, among other subjects," it was added.

In view of the fact that several countries of this group have granted political asylum in their embassies to opponents of the new government headed by Endara, the Group of Rio also demanded "respect for the inviolability and other privileges and immunities of diplomatic delegations."

Several foreign ministers of the Group of Rio insisted that Panama's reentry into the group, to which it has not belonged since 1988, can only be decided by the presidents of each member country. Solana declared, however: "We are seven and will continue to be seven," Mexico City newspapers reported on 30 March.

In his remarks on 31 March, Endara rejected the idea that his government must be legalized through a referendum and asked: "When did the Mexican Foreign Secretary denounce the military dictatorship (in Panama)? The members of the Mexican Government are uttering a thousand and one tons of crap about us having an illegal government." Endara described the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], which has been governing Mexico since 1929, as a "carbon copy of the corrupt pro-Noriega Revolutionary Party [PRD] of Panama."

Three leading Mexico City newspapers today featured Endara's remarks, particularly EL UNIVERSAL which, based on a press dispatch from Panama, had a front-page headline: "Endara Spews Out Attacks Against the Mexican Government."

The newspaper LA JORNADA's headline read: "Endara Criticizes the Mexican Foreign Secretary and Challenges PRI." An UNOMASUNO headline read: "Panama Does Not Want the Mexican Government To Be Legal: Endara."

In its editorial, LA JORNADA regarded "Endara's eagerness to have the world accept his government which was born in the shade of the U.S. power, as pitiful."

The editorial, after asserting that Endara has resorted to blackmail by seeking to establish diplomatic relations while refusing to grant safe-conducts to his opponents who have sought refuge in Latin American countries' embassies in Panama City, said that the Group of Rio's decision "not to recognize spurious governments" is not equivalent to interfering with Panama's domestic affairs.

"Nevertheless, expressing an opinion on the legality of the Mexican Government is indeed an intervention, and a very direct one. It is up to us Mexicans to decide and, if necessary, correct this matter, and certainly without the Marines' support," LA JORNADA concluded.

El Salvador

Government, FMLN Delegates to Geneva Named

PA0304154690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1209 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, accompanied by Ana Cristina Solis and Guillermo Paz Larin, El Salvador's ambassadors to France and Italy, respectively, will hear the UN secretary general's report in Geneva on 4 April. El Salvador's UN representative Carlos Ernesto Mendoza will also attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has announced that the guerrillas will be represented by Commanders Jorge Shafik Handal, Ana Guadalupe Martinez, and Salvador Samayoa.

At the meeting, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who will be accompanied by his personal representative Alvaro de Soto, will inform both sides about the talks that were held to resume the dialogue.

FMLN Criticizes Government Delegation

PA0404074590 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0007 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command in El Salvador on 3 April]

[Text] Regarding the resumption of the negotiation process between our front and the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] scheduled for 4 April at the United Nation's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, we report the following:

1. Today, we have learned that the government delegation is composed of a minister and three government ambassadors accredited to European countries. The latter, as is obvious, are not familiar at all with the dialogue-negotiation process.

2. We think that sending this delegation reflects the government's lack of seriousness toward the negotiation process and its scant willingness to attain a political, negotiated solution.

3. The FMLN, on the contrary, has sent the highest-level delegation, made up of the General Command, and members of the political-diplomatic commission, to discuss, from the beginning, the subject matters of utmost importance rather than purely formal aspects.

4. We deplore that because of the government's attitude, the Geneva meeting will be reduced to a purely protocol ceremony, thus thwarting the aspiration of all Salvadorans and the international community which seeks to quicken the attainment of peace through a negotiated, serious, and substantial solution.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Rebel Radio on Peace Talks in Geneva

PA0204235090 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0024 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Station commentary: "There Is Hope for the People"]

[Text] At noon on 30 March, we learned that the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] will meet on 4 April at the UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. This is an extremely important announcement, and we would like to comment on it.

Dr. Alvaro de Soto, representative of the UN secretary general, announced that the dialogue - negotiations between the government and the FMLN will be held on 4 April at the UN offices in Geneva. It is very important to point out the fact these meetings will be held in one of the two headquarters of the United Nations and with the direct participation of the UN secretary general. This gives the meeting a very serious nature, and compels the parties to make significant concessions. It creates true possibilities for the Salvadoran people to achieve peace through a negotiations process.

Let us remember that eight years ago, Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] satanized the word dialogue during the 1982 Constituent Assembly, and that just about that time President Alvaro Magana said that he had nothing to negotiate with the FMLN. If we stop to consider the fact that we are about to initiate negotiations through the mediation of United Nations and under an Arena government, we will realize that this means we have overcome a great obstacle on the path toward democracy, justice, and peace. The efforts of all FMLN fighters have not been in vain.

However, there is still another obstacle that we must overcome, and that is the government's Armed Forces. The military have misinterpreted recent world events. They think the FMLN has been left alone logistically and ideologically, and, therefore, that it is feasible now to impose on us a peace agreement that would be equivalent to surrender.

As of right now, the military should understand that they are wrong. If they think they can achieve such an agreement, this might lead them to some not very pleasant surprises. The FMLN will never ask for guarantees to join a political process that is stained with the blood of unarmed members of the opposition.

We are going to Geneva to struggle for the establishment of guarantees so that the entire Salvadoran society can participate in a truly democratic process. Those guarantees can only be obtained once the country is (?democratized). The framework for the battle for democratization in El Salvador—the United Nations—is very favorable. That is the idea. The eyes of the world are going to be focused on that dialogue - negotiations process.

As we said before, the great obstacle in that battle is the Armed Forces, an army that is used to giving orders and

terrorizing the civilian population. Therefore, the democratization of the country is closely linked to the demilitarization of the country. By the same token, it is important that the FMLN remain strong in order to overcome that obstacle, so that the hardline military will understand and concede that the negotiation process will lead to democracy and not to the surrender of the FMLN [words indistinct].

Our thoughts are still the same. We are convinced that we represent the demands of the vast majority of Salvadorans. The people want a reduction and demilitarization of the Armed Forces, reforms to the judiciary and electoral systems, and [words indistinct]. We believe we have great opportunities ahead in order to achieve the democratization of the country and to make progress in the demilitarization of our society.

After many years of war and sacrifice, the FMLN fighters have made it possible for us to be on the verge of the negotiations. It is now up to all Salvadorans and all national sectors to strive for a solution, that is, toward democracy, justice, and peace.

Rebel Radio Decries Government Statement on UN

PA0404024790 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Station commentary: "UN's Important Role"]

[Text] Official Salvadoran Government spokesman Mauricio Sandoval said on 30 March that the role of the UN secretary general will end on 4 April, once the parties in conflict meet in Geneva, Switzerland. It is unlikely that Mr Sandoval does not know the agreements reached between the government, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], and the United Nations. Therefore, what the government is doing through its spokesman is trying to confuse public opinion. The UN's role does not end on 4 April with the first dialogue meeting. In fact, this is when the UN's true participation begins. So far, the UN secretary general has played an important role in coordinating the meeting. From 4 April onward, once the negotiating process begins, we will be talking about the terms for ending the war—described as one of Latin America's bloodiest.

The terms for a solution can be basically summed-up in two words: democratization and demilitarization. Democratization implies reforms to the judicial and electoral systems. Demilitarization implies a substantial reduction of the armed forces, making them professional, and redefining their role to one of defending the people and no longer being against the people. These will be the topics that will be on the negotiating table, and the outcome will directly and openly determine the FMLN's participation in the country's political life.

These are very delicate topics, with hard aspects that must be treated with the utmost possible seriousness and sincerity. This is why the UN's participation as agreed is fundamental. It is important that all the Salvadoran people, political parties, and social forces closely follow all the details of the negotiating process. One cannot allow oneself to be confused by tricks like Mauricio Sandoval's. A happy outcome does not depend on what the military government says; it will always depend on our struggle and the struggle of all the country's political and social forces.

FMLN Leader Advocates Political Solution

PA0404032790 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Violeta Polanco report on news conference given by Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Commander Gustavo Amaya; date and place not given]

[Text] The FMLN believes that the war must end through a negotiated political solution, according to FMLN Commander Gustavo Amaya of the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front.

At a news conference Amaya said that the solution for the Salvadoran armed conflict that has lasted over 10 years will depend not only on the FMLN, but also on the government's goodwill. Nevertheless, he added, the FMLN has noticed a hardening of the positions in the government and the Armed Forces, which so far has made it impossible to reach specific agreements. However, he noted that now peace can be attained with the participation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

[Begin Amaya recording] I think that there has been great progress in the regional peace process during the past few months. The Nicaraguan elections have a meaning for the region. This is the dismantling of contra bases in Honduras and Costa Rica and the achievement of peace. This action was promoted by the United Nations.

In that regard, for El Salvador it also means that the United Nations will participate in the negotiations, and that the negotiating parties—in this case, the FMLN and the government—must act with more responsibility in trying to find a solution for the crisis. Like you said, this is the last card. [end recording]

Commander Gustavo said that the peace process will depend not only on those sitting down at the table of negotiations, but on all groups that take part in national life.

[Begin recording] [Amaya] If closed or intransigent positions that promote war are adopted, I am sure that those positions will be opposed not only by the FMLN—and not only by a second FMLN offensive—but by the entire nation, which demands peace, justice, and democracy in El Salvador. [end recording]

Amaya expressed assurance that the FMLN will maintain the commitment recently announced by its general command on suspending sabotage of economic targets, a gesture which he described as a gesture of goodwill to favor the dialogue.

PDC Rebuts Cristiani's Misinformation Charges

PA0304142990 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1211 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has announced that Cristiani's statements upon his return from Venezuela, to the effect that the opposition parties spread misinformation in Caracas, are totally absurd, because, the party stated, it was the president who misinformed. The PDC said that Cristiani never extended an invitation to the political parties to participate in the negotiations with the guerrillas, as he said he did in Caracas a few days ago.

* Military Insignia Found in Guerrilla Caches

32480241A

[Editorial Report] San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 24 February reports on page 5 that the Salvadoran Armed Forces are thoroughly investigating the origins of a large quantity of military emblems and other insignia found together with olive-green and camouflage uniforms in a safe house and in encampments in various parts of the country, according to a military source.

Members of the Armed Forces High Command have been surprised by the frequency with which such insignia have been discovered in caches of war materiel. This has lead them to believe that perhaps the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] could be using uniforms similar to those of the Army while carrying out attacks which result in civilian casualties in order to later accuse the Army of human rights violations.

The military spokesmen called upon the civilian population to be alert to the possible use of uniforms with military insignia by extremist elements. They noted that by close observation one might notice certain details which would unmistakably identify these persons as guerrillas.

Guatemala

URNG, CNR To Meet in Madrid for Next Talks

PA0304224790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1608 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—In early May, Madrid will be the site of the next meeting between guerrilla members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) and leaders from the country's political parties, it was reported today by the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR).

CNR leader Leopoldo Sandoval explained that the Guatemalan Government's delegate to the latest talks with the URNG in Oslo, Jorge Serrano Elias, met on 2 April with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez.

The meeting "was held to make the arrangements for the next meeting between the URNG and the political parties' delegates during the first week of May," Sandoval said.

Fernandez Ordonez offered the city of Madrid as the site for the meeting, agreed to last week in the Norwegian capital between rebel delegates and the Guatemalan Government as part of the political solution of the country's armed conflict.

The so-called "Oslo Agreement" calls for the URNG and the government to plan meetings for the Guatemalan guerrillas and political parties, the Catholic Church, the private business sector, and the Army in an effort to end the 30-year war in the Central American country, which has a population of 9 million.

Sandoval said that the CNR considers the progress made toward the achievement of peace through the basic agreement signed in Oslo and the scheduling of a second meeting in Madrid "very positive."

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala today issued a communique stating its satisfaction with the "Oslo Agreement."

"The United States applauds the effort and congratulates the participants for achieving progress in the Central American peace process within the framework of the Esquipulas Agreements, which President George Bush's government continues to support," the communique emphasizes.

The "Oslo agreement" was signed on 30 March by Jorge Serrano Elias, Eduardo Villatoro, and Mario Permouth, of the CNR, which is supported by the government and guerrilla representatives Francisco Villagran, Luis Becker Guzman, and Jorge Rosal.

The meeting in Norway, sponsored by the Lutheran Federation, is the second one between the CNR and the URNG, the first one was held in August 1988 in Costa Rica, following the failure of the 1987 Madrid meeting due to "a lack of understanding" between the parties.

Retired General Organizes Task Force

PA0404033190 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Mar 90 p 65

[Paid advertisement: "Important Notice to Retired Guatemalan Army Servicemen"]

[Text] Attention: General officers, senior and junior officers, military commissioners, specialists and soldiers who have had the honor and glory of rendering military service; former members of the National Police and Treasury Police; and members and former members of the Civil Self-Defense Patrols:

I am addressing you to inform you that the creation and organization of the Tecun Uman Task Force as a manifestation of the existence, presence, and opinions of the great military family composed of all persons who have

links with or have belonged to the nation's security forces and have no legal impediments to exercise their citizens rights is under consideration and that plans for it are already well advanced.

The Tecun Uman Task Force will begin activities through a clear, open, and serious electoral action with decisive impact to elect as president of the republic a civilian or military person who will guarantee immediate fulfillment of the following objectives:

1. To stabilize the country's economic situation through measures to bring about austerity, honesty, and positive development in order to generate employment for Guatemalan citizens;

2. To ensure a climate of real security for the people and their property and to permit the normal development of economic, social, news reporting, cultural, sports, religious, and political activities.

3. To guarantee that the Guatemalan Army in active status will be saved and protected from all political actions aimed at dividing, disorganizing, and destroying it.

4. To guarantee parents protection for their children through an aggressive campaign against anything involving the production, transportation, distribution, and consumption of drugs.

5. To draw up programs seriously and with common sense to provide better health care, education, and food for the population.

In light of the foregoing, I ask that before they commit to vote for or participate in the political activities of any group, my comrades and friends in the great military family communicate with me to learn the details of the organization of the Tecun Uman Task Force, which is destined to play an important role in the next elections, such as: to strengthen the democratic system, which is currently in a trial stage, and to stop the civil war, which has already begun in the countryside and the cities.

Cordially,

Guatemala, January 1990.
Brigadier General J. Guillermo Echeverria Vielman, Retired
A-1 119811
20 Avenue 3-41, Zone 11
El Mirador Development
Telephone 713609.

Honduras

Contras 'Apprehensive' About Disarmament

PA0304042290 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 26 Mar 90 p 10

[Text] Yamales, El Paraiso—Contra fighters seemed apprehensive and suspicious on 24 March when they heard the news of their departure, to take place no later than 20 April. Most of them said they had no knowledge of the agreements signed on 23 March between the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) and the UNO (National Opposition Union) leaders and endorsed by Msgr. Miguel Obando y Bravo.

"They only tell us we are leaving on the 20th, but the commanders have not said anything to us. Besides, we have to be sure because we cannot leave with our families without knowing what will happen to us."

"We are all anxious to return and end this war, but the commanders make the decisions here," they said.

Maybe the greatest problem being faced by the thousands of Nicaraguans who have lived here for 10 years is how to find a job. They and the new government will have to find the mechanism so that they may join the country's productive sector.

The other problem prevailing among the fighters is how to break their relations with the Hondurans, particularly their sentimental relations, because many have fathered children by Honduran women.

The same holds true for several Nicaraguan women who have established sentimental ties with Honduran men.

The decision to demobilize has been made, and it is now only a matter of waiting for the results and the implementation of the agreements. Nevertheless, the greatest problem for the new government is to find a way to reconcile the armed rebels who are returning to Nicaragua.

Nicaragua

UNO Council on FSLN Government Positions

PA0304221390 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Communique issued by the National Political Council of the National Opposition Union, UNO, in Managua on 2 April]

[Text] The UNO National Political Council, made up of representatives from the 14 political parties who won the 25 February general elections, states the following to the Nicaraguan people, in light of a concern among all sectors of our population regarding our future Government of National Salvation:

1. We fully ratify the commitment made with the people regarding changes in all government structures, including the military and police forces, in accordance with the government platform and the Constitution.

2. From the Legislative Assembly, a government branch in which the 14 UNO parties will have a majority, as well as from all other government positions we might hold, we will do everything we can to ensure that the commitment for a change is faithfully complied with.

3. We are fully aware of our commitment to the Nicaraguan people, who, with responsibility, sacrifice, and courage, secured their right to freedom with their votes.

Therefore, we find the retention of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] members in the highest positions of the Army, Interior Ministry, and other government institutions unacceptable.

Managua, 2 April 1990

[Signed] UNO National Political Council

Salvadoran Coast Guard Seizes Two Ships

PA0304232290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2225 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Carlos Ruiz from Port of Corinto]

[Text] Moments ago, two Nicaraguan fishing ships, the Georgino Andrade and San Albino, of the Alinsa Shrimp Company, in the port of Corinto, were seized by Salvadoran coast guard cutters that entered 15 miles into our territorial waters to seize them. Ten sailors were detained. Their names are: Luis Serrano Bonilla, captain of the Georgino Andrade, and crewmen Cristino Osorto Lezcano Maquinita, Juan Serrano Bonilla, Jorge Avendano, and Rafael Amador, and Manuel Ruiz Ocampo, Manuel de Jesus Martinez, Victor Benavides, Lorenzo Martinez Remigio, and another comrade surnamed Molina, who are crewmen of the San Albino.

The Alinsa Shrimp Company told us that the fishing ships had contacted the company to report that a Salvadoran frigate, with questionable intentions, was approaching. Afterward, the ships were taken to El Salvador.

Obando, Callejas Comment on Regional Issues

PA0404025890 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas met with Miguel Cardinal Obando y Bravo at noon today, minutes before the opening of the summit meeting in Montelimar.

In statements to the local and foreign press, the Nicaraguan cardinal said that the demobilization of the anti-Sandinist rebels stationed in Honduras is moving forward. Meanwhile, Callejas said that his was a courtesy visit to the Nicaraguan cardinal. Let us listen to their statements:

[Begin recording] [Obando y Bravo] I have always said that peace does not depend on one or two people but on many men of goodwill. I think that the Honduran president and his aides have played an important role. I personally am very grateful to His Excellency and to the Honduran people. He was so kind as to send his plane to us here and we have been very well... [changes thought] we have been welcomed with a great spirit of fraternity during our stay in the sister Republic of Honduras.

[Callejas] [Words indistinct] our visit here is one of courtesy and gratitude. The cardinal had the goodwill and sense of responsibility to participate in the effort to make a decision on the Toncontin agreement that is momentous for the Honduran people and for many Nicaraguans and the Republic of Nicaragua.

I did not have the opportunity to embrace him personally when he left, because he had to leave directly from Tegucigalpa to Managua. I was not at Toncontin airport and for that reason...[words indistinct]. This is the first visit by a Honduran president to Nicaragua in 10 years and so we decided to visit him, who has known how to be a spiritual leader towards peace in Central America.

[Reporter, interrupting] (?Was) demobilization the main issue you discussed with Cardinal Obando y Bravo?

[Obando y Bravo, in progress] ...of courtesy, gratitude, and a genuine impression that all of us want this meeting of presidents to continue unfolding in such a way that peace will be a viable objective in Central America.

[Reporter] How is the matter of the [words indistinct] going?

[Callejas] The contras [words indistinct]. We will discuss this at the summit. There is the Toncontin agreement, and there is an appeal to ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and CIAV [International Control and Verification Commission]. We expect it to be quite fluid.

[Reporter] Regarding the Toncontin agreement, are conditions in place for this agreement's stipulations to be fulfilled after this summit?

[Obando y Bravo] As a matter of fact, under the Toncontin agreement the armed resistance pledged to us that persons in Honduran territory will disarm by 20 April at the latest. Regarding the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] who have infiltrated Nicaraguan territory, it was agreed that ONUCA and CIAV must play a very important role by establishing security zones in order for the RN to enter with its weapons. I hope that the meeting that will be held by their excellencies the Central American presidents will help us open one more door to peace.

[Reporter] Are you referring to possibility of a truce, Monsignor?

[Obando y Bravo] [Words indistinct]. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Contra Demobilization

PA0304134890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1204 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Army General Humberto Ortega has said the most important feature of the Toncontin agreement is that the contra forces have voluntarily agreed to the participation of ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], and there is thus no reason for the contras to refuse to

demobilize. Concerning the reduction of the Army, Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega said:

[Begin Ortega recording] The problems between countries are not mainly a matter of whether or not they have an army; the real problem is whether or not there is a commitment to peace. For example, in Costa Rica, one could have neighbors who have no pistols or any other weapons, but if they are not committed to being good neighbors, they could fight with their teeth and could even kill each other this way. Therefore, what is important is the commitment to peace.

We know of and support the efforts agreed upon in Contadora to reduce the size of armies and to adjust them to the needs of each country with no detriment done to their defense doctrines to protect their sovereignty and while making sure that the size of these armies contribute to each country's economic and social needs. In other words, the armies should be in line with the country's economic and social possibilities and its population. In this regard, we believe that if peace is achieved in Nicaragua, we could immediately begin reducing the number of forces that have been mobilized to defend our sovereignty—several tens of thousands of forces.

In other words, we will cooperate with the new government in reaching an adequate troop strength that is not a burden to the country. Of course, we will take into account the Central American parameters, the reasonable balance of forces that has been mentioned, while logically being truly committed to having an Army that will not be so burdensome in view of the serious economic and social problems being faced by the Central American countries. [end recording]

Asked what effect a contra failure to disarm would have on Nicaragua and Central America, the defense minister said:

[Begin Ortega recording] If the contras do not respect the sentiment behind the vote in this country, which was for the war to end and total peace to be achieved, they will be an obstacle to the new government. If the new government truly wants to promote a policy to gradually repair the damage caused by the war in the economic and social areas...[changes thought] The new government would like for there to be no war, for there to be no contras, for one to be able to travel through the mountains and through the rural areas where the grain comes from, where there are cattle, and where the peasants are working, without fear of an attack by contra bands or fear of being murdered.

In other words, a failure by the contras to demobilize immediately would be very detrimental to the effort to reach total peace and strengthen this democratic path that we have opened. [end recording]

Cardinal Discusses Demobilization, Hostages

PA0204235190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo reiterated in his homily yesterday that the contras should disarm and demobilize no later than 20 April. He also denounced the mercenary ambush in which 13 civilians and soldiers were killed.

Asked again about the people who have been kidnapped by the contras, the Nicaraguan prelate said that in all his meetings with the contra leaders, the latter said that there are no hostages, only people who are cooperating with the contras. I insisted that there is a list of kidnapped people, Cardinal Obando y Bravo said, but the contras always denied holding people. Let us hear what the cardinal had to say in this regard:

[Begin recording] [Obando y Bravo] I regret what I read in a newspaper to the effect that there were 12 deaths. I am only stating what I read in the newspapers. This is regrettable, but it should not discourage us. We must try to move forward. We reached an agreement that a commission would be formed by the incoming government and the armed rebels to expedite the process that should lead us to peace.

[Reporter] Cardinal, how many people do you think will disarm?

[Obando y Bravo] Well, I could not give you an exact figure. When you talk with some people, they say 10,000. Others say 6,000, and still others say that most of the contras have already disarmed. I do not know how many people are involved, but since international organizations are being asked to assist, they will have to determine how many armed people are involved. One also has to take into account the fact that the Honduran authorities are very interested in having the armed rebels lay down their weapons. They would like the disarmament to take place as soon as possible. The rebels in Tegucigalpa have until 20 April to disarm. No date has been set for those who are inside Nicaragua. I do not want to give you an inaccurate date, because I am not an expert on these matters. I would like it to be as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Cardinal, what about the kidnapped people, a topic that has been reported in the press and on the radio? Did you discuss this with the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]?

[Obando y Bravo] We have mentioned the problem during each of our contacts with the RN. We were in contact with the RN in the Dominican Republic twice, and the subject was discussed twice. I remember that a letter had been given to me here in Nicaragua regarding a pilot. That topic was discussed there, as well as in Guatemala, where we met twice. The topic was discussed when we were in Costa Rica. The topic was discussed in Sapoa. It was discussed when we were here in the Camino Real [Hotel], and it was discussed recently when we were in Tegucigalpa. I always get the same answer.

They tell me: We are not holding anyone hostage. I say: But there is a list. They say: We have no one. The thing is—I am quoting them—some people say that they have been kidnapped so that their relatives will not have problems in Nicaragua. They cited for me—if my memory is right—a person whom I believe was called Marta, who had been reported kidnapped, when she was actually the RN secretary. They mentioned someone named Carlos. The RN says that some people are believed kidnapped, when they are actually helping the RN. [end recording]

EPS General Staff Warns of Contra Infiltration

PA0304160690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Yesterday, Major General Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the General Staff of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], expressed the concern in military circles over the current mass infiltration of contras, despite the agreement reached in Toncontin to demobilize them.

Cuadra warned that if the irregular forces do not disarm and relocate before 25 April they will create a great problem for the incoming government and, logically, all of the nation's forces will have to be rallied to demobilize them. The high-ranking Sandinist military leader reiterated that they will respect the cease-fire decreed by the government and dismissed an attack against the contras at this time because this would hurt the demobilization process.

Cuadra said that the most advisable thing would be for the ONUCA [United Nations Observer Group in Central America] and CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] missions to begin operating immediately in order to keep the contra ringleaders from having any pretexts not to surrender their weapons and comply with the Toncontin agreement.

New Radio Station Announces Formation

PA0204223790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The programs and voices you enjoyed listening to on this station [La Voz de Nicaragua] will soon be heard on Radio Ya, which will broadcast on 600 khz. We are ready. We have our listeners, Radio Ya!

Health Ministry on Work of Cuban Medical Brigade

PA0304040790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Health Ministry officials have demanded that the elected coalition government go on record about the work being carried out in the country by the Cuban medical brigade. Given the elected authorities' silence, the Cuban brigade's members have been transferred to other zones to guarantee their personal security. The brigade is made up of 273 doctors—121 of whom are specialists in 27 different fields—who practice their profession throughout the country.

Doctor Marta Medina, in charge of the MINSA [Health Ministry] medical services, said that there are no Nicaraguan specialists in Regions 1, 5, and 6, or in Puerto Cabezas and Rivas, because the Cuban doctors provided that service. The group has members in the cities of Managua, Masaya, Granada, and Bluefields, where they are providing their services. The doctors cannot be replaced in the other regions because the few specialists available in the country work in Managua, and they do not want to transfer to those regions.

Contras Attack in South Atlantic Region

PA0204234990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Counterrevolutionary attacks on Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops, private vehicles, and peasant settlements on the South Atlantic Coast, in a clear and provocative violation of the unilateral cease-fire decreed by Nicaragua's revolutionary government, have resulted in two mercenaries dead, one EPS fighter wounded, and 30 head of cattle stolen.

On 26 March, a group of mercenaries attacked EPS troops in El Bosque, southeast of Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department. One contra was killed. On 27 March, an attack was launched in the area of La Gloria, south of Quilali; one EPS comrade was wounded. In another attack that same day at El Abandono, north of Matiguas, Matagalpa Department, one mercenary was killed, and a mine and a backpack were seized. On the same day, 27 March, the contras intercepted four public buses in the areas known as San Juan de Buena Vista, northwest of Pantasma; La Vainilla, and Valle el Jocote, northwest of San Sebastian, in Yali, Jinotega.

In the area of (Jilamapia), southwest of Muelle de los Bueyes, an autonomous region in the South Atlantic, the mercenaries stole 30 head of cattle that belonged to the community.

Editorial on U.S. Congress' Opposition to Aid

PA0404032990 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial entitled "The U.S. Aid"]

[Text] President Bush's request to Congress for $300 and $500 million for the economic recovery of Nicaragua and Panama, respectively, has met with opposition within the Democratic wing of that legislative body. Once again, that country's Congress is interfering with the definition of foreign policy, stupidly failing to consider whether or not this is the proper time to capitalize on the victory of democracy in the region.

In his proposal, the President of the United States admits that the recovery of democracy in Nicaragua and Panama cannot be separated from the recovery of their

economies. Although other countries could also contribute, it is common knowledge that only the United States can contribute enough, especially in light of its debts to the Nicaraguan and Panamanian people.

We believe that the American democracy, besides having an obligation to contribute to the consolidation of the recent democratic achievements in Nicaragua and Panama, must also partially alleviate the losses caused by its troops' intervention on Panamanian soil. Regarding Nicaragua, it has special obligations after having partially financed a war that, together with Sandinist squandering and mismanagement, led to the total collapse of our economy.

To now say that the recovery of democracy in these two countries has no strategic importance and that the United States' interest should be centered on Eastern Europe, Egypt, Israel, or the Phillipines is to ignore what the existence of democratic regimes in Central America means for the United States' internal security. To deny assistance is to tell Central Americans that they are not among U.S. priorities and to disregard the admirable struggle of the Nicaraguan people who won over Marxism-Leninism. It is inconceivable that the ones who are resisting in Congress are those who call themselves democrats.

Now that democracy is about to be installed in Nicaragua, thanks to Nicaraguans' sovereign decision, the least we expect from all the Western democracies is that they export their systems by contributing to our economic recovery—and with it to the people's well-being. To deny that small assistance we need so badly is to invite social upheaval, which could make us lose the democratic spoils we have gained.

Nicaragua hopes that Americans will acknowledge their obligations in this decisive hour of the continent's history, so we do not have to remind them of a question often pondered by Latin American politicians: "How to be friends with the Americans and survive the experience."

Commentary on Demobilization, 'U.S. Boycott'

PA0304015390 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] The deadline for the contras' demobilization is barely 23 days away and time is running out for the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] mission to receive the irregular forces' weapons both in Honduras and in Nicaragua. This process is being subtly boycotted by the U.S. Government and the contra leadership. Washington and the contra military leadership know there is little time to carry out the disarmament and relocation, and they are implementing dilatory tactics so that the weapons and war equipment are still in the hands of the mercenary forces on 25 April. The United States is delaying the funds to the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] for the contras' civilian relocation by postponing the issue, while sabotaging the UN Security Council's meeting to decide on the inclusion of forces from Venezuela, Ecuador, and other countries in ONUCA to disarm the contras.

Furthermore, the contra leaders' alleged statements on demobilization disguise their real intention of influencing the process so that the majority of its armed contingents may enter the farthest corners of the country and remain there with their weapons a long time after the newly elected government assumes power. A clear example of this is the statement by [contra leader] Commander Franklin following his quick and clandestine trip to the United States while the Toncontin Agreement was being signed. He supported the agreement, but demanded that the Sandinist People's Army be dismantled, thus reiterating the reactionary sectors' veiled arguments about impossible and unreal symmetry.

The Honduran Armed forces maintain an intensive border patrol now that the majority of the contra troops have infiltrated Nicaraguan territory. The contra leaders only left behind those unfit for battle—the crippled, the sick, the wounded, and women—something they had not done before, when the Central American agreements banned the use of Honduran territory to attack another country. The tactics to delay the contras' demobilization imply that extreme-right groups in the United States and Nicaragua have apparently coincided on the need to leave the irregular forces intact as a political-military force, and to use them after 25 April as an element of renegotiation between the new government and the country's constitutional Armed Forces.

The need to urgently demobilize the contras is obvious because the dangers facing the fragile peace in Nicaragua and the Central American region will increase as the disarmament and relocation process is delayed. The bases of this peace have barely been established and they are already being subject to you know who's boycott.

Commentary Criticizes LA PRENSA Reports

PA0304004490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1227 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Once again, the government-elect's official newspaper, LA PRENSA, yesterday published dangerous reports that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] is massacring its own members in a sinister campaign.

The irresponsible action by President Violeta Barrios' newspaper can only be explained by its intention to justify the contras' criminal and terrorist actions, which have been confirmed on many occasions even by international organizations.

All these years, during which the constitutional armed forces have defended our homeland's sovereignty and dignity, LA PRENSA embargoed reports on the murders committed by the contras, and then tried to hide them in reduced numbers and manipulated reports.

While peasants, cooperative members, soldiers, and men and women—even internationalists—were victims of the contras, LA PRENSA remained silent and, like other sectors, raised doubts about the participation of their allies, in an apparently coordinated plan.

Gentlemen of LA PRENSA: Who do you think edited the CIA manual that teaches how to systematically kill Sandinists? Who do you think sketched plans against the civilian population, such as the Red Christmas that the security forces aborted? Who has attacked civilian transportation vehicles? Who has killed men, women, and children simply because they were members of a cooperative or because they would not vote for UNO [National Oppostion Union]? Who had or still holds hostages, including women? Who has been accused of raping women in their own camps? Who has even tried to kill priests?

As an example of its manipulation, LA PRENSA yesterday printed that the majority of the contras will remain in rural enclaves in the interior of Nicaragua until Chamorro's government consolidates. What is the real intention behind this? Is this a way to send specific guidelines to their contra leaders in facing their commitment for demobilization? Is LA PRENSA ordering the irregular forces to remain at arms and not deliver their weapons to ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], ignoring the Toncontin Agreement? Is it that LA PRENSA does not want peace?

As the president-elect's official newspaper, LA PRENSA should at least be serious and respect the constitutional armed forces that will support the government of its owner, Violeta Barrios. It should stop sending hints to the contras against their demobilization.

Is LA PRENSA also hiding the government-elect's ulterior motive of recognizing and legitimizing the contras in the future, confirming persistent reports circulating abroad and within reactionary circles?

Overlooking the spirit of the Toncontin accords and the transition agreements signed yesterday, Violeta Barrios' newspaper conditions the demobilization upon the consolidation of its government. What if this does not occur?

The instability that representatives of the government-elect are creating will not permit the immediate consolidation of the government of Violeta Barrios. LA PRENSA has also now published an irresponsible statement, forgetting that there is only one constitutional and legal armed force in Nicaragua to guarantee our national sovereignty and dignity.

* UNO 'Bought' Votes, Lawyers Charge

90EM0113A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 2 Mar 90 pp 1-2

[Text] A group of attorneys associated with the Freedom Office and led by Adrian Meza will file a challenge with the Supreme Election Council [CSE] concerning the buying of votes, alleging that such a practice amounts to an abuse of the right to voter secrecy rather than a mere violation of political ethics.

The challenge is being filed by attorneys associated with the office in question and results from a series of complaints that a large number of citizens sold their votes to the rightist UNO [National Opposition Union] coalition in the recent elections. In order to gather more complaints, the group has taken out a "post office box for democratic honesty and the defense of secret voting in Nicaragua."

Meza told EL NUEVO DIARIO that the challenge filed with the CSE is based on the fact that, according to the constitution, voting has to be done in person, cannot be delegated, and must be secret in order to guarantee confidentiality, first of all, and second, so that one may vote one's conscience or convictions, as Cardinal Miguel Obando asked before the elections.

The CSE thereby guarantees the right to vote, Meza said, adding that when votes are bought, the voter is alienated, his will is turned over to someone else, and the person casting the ballot is not the voter, but rather, the vote buyer.

Null and Void

"No longer is it a vote of conscience, but rather, is based on the interests of the buyer," the attorney said, noting that the act of voting cannot be delegated either, inasmuch as the one voting is the buyer by virtue of a delegation of the person selling his vote. According to Meza, voting adulterated to such an extreme becomes "an abuse of the practice of secret voting," rendering it null and void.

When this situation is repeated and becomes a system of gaining votes, Meza says, there results a conspiracy in which certain persons plot to cheat the law in the interest of third parties. "What has happened is extremely serious," the attorney said, while at the same time emphasizing the need to get to the bottom of this anomalous situation.

For Meza, the political parties that won a small number of votes were also cheated because votes were bought from individuals who might have otherwise cast their ballots for them. Through EL NUEVO DIARIO, the Freedom Office asks political parties, people's organizations, and the people in general to send their signed reports with addresses to P.O. Box 3130 in Managua.

* Youth Group Reiterates FSLN Support

90EM0113B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] The National Young Christians Association interprets the 25 February election defeat not as a defeat of the revolution, but rather, as an opportunity for the rightist alliance government to demonstrate in action its democratic preachings during the election campaign of freedom, sovereignty, social justice, and peace.

The new term of government is, they say, a kind of transition during which the people, acting as the main judge and historical subject, will see whether there is true respect for individual and collective freedoms, construction of dignified housing, fair wages, and free education

and health care for the people, principal guardian of gains made under 10 years of revolutionary government.

The young Christians value the biblical teachings of the people of Israel, who spent 40 years in the desert learning and gaining in maturity on their own until they finally found their true relationship with the God of Eternal Life and tempered their nature in order to be ready to enter the promised land.

Like Israel, we are not alone, for we are accompanied by our leaders and the same God who freed his people from the pharaohs, who tried to win over the people's conscience with "waves of Egyptian plenty," they add.

For members of the Association's National Board of Directors, it is an opportunity for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] to evaluate seriously and responsibly their role as leaders of the vast poor majorities in the hope the FSLN will necessarily be led to a critical and mature review of the ideological and moral character of its activist members so as to organize a purging process within the party. There will result a selection of new elements who will respond better to the dearest interests of the proletariat and assume an attitude of real self-sacrifice to the principles of Sandino, Rigoberto Lopez Perez, and Carlos Fonseca.

Finally, they call on the Christian youth of Nicaragua to form a single bloc around our suffering people, who are wounded, deprived, sick, and disabled, in need of peace, justice, and unity with their revolution, their leaders, and their organizations.

* University Students Defend Gains

90EM0113C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
1 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] Maria Ramirez, president of the National Union of Nicaraguan Students (UNEN), has called for unity of the student movement in order to protect gains made by university students in recent years.

For its part, the university faculty yesterday expressed full support for students in their defense of gains made, including university autonomy.

Ramirez said the student movement will defend the program of scholarships, free education and transportation, book subsidies, and economic assistance for students from the different regions.

University students also plan specific actions looking to the new school year beginning 5 March, including discussions of academic regulations and the organic law on university autonomy, in order to protect the existence of the Preparatory School and oppose privatization of the UCA [Central American University] and UPOLI [Nicaraguan Polytechnical University].

Student leaders revealed that the new conservative government is considering privatizing the UCA and UPOLI. However, the academic community in general rejects such a proposal.

It was announced at the meeting held in Neysi Rios Auditorium that beginning the first week of March, elections will be held for representatives of class groups, schools or associations, faculty, and dormitory presidents.

There will also be a discussion of the Law on University Autonomy contained in the country's constitution.

Nearly 30,000 university students, including some 10,000 first-year students, will be enrolled this year.

* UNO Assesses Government Assets, Liabilities

90EM0113D Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
4 Mar 90 p 2

[Text]**Assets:**

All state enterprises under MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], the Ministry of Commerce (Domestic and Foreign), the Ministry of Industry, the Ministries of Defense and Interior, and all ministries and public entities, except for municipal entities that will be transferred to new local governments.

Several hundred enterprises are involved in the three sectors of the economy: primary, secondary, and tertiary. These enterprises are the owners of or have been assigned nearly a million blocks, sites, warehouses, workshops, machinery, and miscellaneous stocks, as well as industrial facilities, supermarkets and stores, boats, motor pools, and even hotels, restaurants, and motels.

The entire inventories of ministries and public institutions.

This means buildings, real estate, and all kinds of sites and facilities.

Only the Ministry of Defense has hundreds of thousands of pistols, rifles, and other hand weapons, thousands of machine guns, mortars, communications equipment, tanks, planes, helicopters, heavy artillery pieces, thousands or millions of cartridges and munitions, airports, bases, barracks, and an infinite number of facilities, clinics and hospitals, thousands of vehicles of all types, and so on.

Such inventories, combined with those of the MINT [Ministry of Interior], are enormous. To receive them, preserve them, and decide the fate of anything that does not have to be preserved demands very complex work.

Houses and other buildings that had belonged to Minvah [Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements], Inturismo [Nicaraguan Institute of Tourism and the Environment] facilities throughout the country.

All of this represents a colossal mass of property that must be transferred to the new administration and, given the

disorder that has prevailed in many areas for years, the task of taking care of and turning over everything requires total attention of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] itself, all workers and public servants, as well as UNO [National Opposition Union] and all the people.

Liquid assets and securities of the government and banks, ranging from bills to titles to loans or deposits conferred or completed in their name at home and abroad.

Consequently, credits not paid out are also government resources.

The people's enthusiasm, their great determination to live in peace and build a regime of well-being and progress, along with world solidarity, are valuable assets available to the new government and a valuable instrument for forging a better future for Nicaragua, now tired of war and poverty.

Of all of Nicaragua's assets, the most precious are its human assets. By relying on them, the new government will be able to make progress.

Liabilities:

The country's gigantic foreign debt, which it owes to almost all countries in the world without distinction as to political or economic systems, amounting to $8 to $9 million, now due or coming due at different times.

Deposits and other liabilities of the financial system, enterprises, and the government. National banks are completely broke. The government and national enterprises owe them money but cannot pay. It will be necessary to liquidate many of them.

The economic crisis, the main liability to be inherited by the new government, which has resulted in inflation, declining production, domestic consumption and exports, unemployment, the deterioration of social and public services, destruction of the economic and social infrastructure, and so on.

Overcoming this dreadful crisis is the first, prime task of the new government.

All the people hope and want it to do so.

* Managua's New Municipal Leaders Listed

90EM0113E Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] The National Opposition Union (UNO) won 16 municipal councils in the city of Managua, according to unofficial figures released yesterday afternoon by Dr Arnoldo Aleman Lacayo, who will take office as mayor of Managua on 25 April 1990.

The municipal government of Managua will be under the direct responsibility of 20 persons with their respective alternates (1 per councilman), 16 of whom are members of different political parties forming the National Opposition Union (UNO). The other four councilmen will correspond to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The new councilmen for UNO are: Agustin Jarquin, Dr Adolfo Everts, Dr Arnoldo Aleman Lacayo, Mrs Yamileth Bonilla, Dr Mario Aviles, Medardo Umana, Adolfo Brenes, Sr., Clemente Francisco Guido, Adolfo Torres, Sr., Julio Espinal, Jose Antonio Jimenez, Roberto Cedeno, Gloria Haydee Orozco, Mrs Virginia Orozco Cruz, Dr Miriam Fonseca, and Rodolfo Baez.

Yesterday afternoon the councilmen sent their first communique to workers in the mayoralty of Managua, telling them: "There is no reason for you to fear for your jobs. Our Government of Municipal Salvation will not begin by ordering a 'sweep' of municipal jobs," they said.

"Our policy will lead to maximum employment of the capacities of workers in this mayoralty rather than fatten the army of unemployed already existing in the capital. Rather than shutting down communal development projects, which would cost many municipal employees their jobs, our development policy will tend rather to expand projects and therefore offer more employment opportunities to more and new workers," the councilmen said.

The municipal officials said the new administration will be an honest, open administration.

"We shall manage municipal resources honestly and with sufficient openness to remove all possible doubt in the minds of our voters and other citizens of the capital city concerning our administration. Our decisions will above all be based on the real interests of the people of Managua rather than the special interests of the political parties to which they belong," they said.

The four councilmen from the Sandinist Front will not be left out by municipal council members representing UNO, the communique said. "The Sandinist Front minority that remained as part of the Municipal Council of Managua will be respected and integrated with equal rights as established by law. Dr Arnoldo Aleman Lacayo's administration will be one of unity for development without exclusions based on partisan politics."

The same policy will be followed toward workers in the mayoralty. "The political options of municipal employees will be respected. Every individual will be able to express his political opinions freely, even if contrary to those expressed by municipal officials. This will mean full enjoyment of political rights of municipal employees," they concluded.

* Business Sector on Post Election Plans

90EM0113F Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] 1 Mar (AP)—Seven years ago, Ramiro Gurdian received death threats for criticizing the Sandinist Government. His banana plantation Candelaria, the biggest in Nicaragua, was summarily seized.

Now that the Sandinists have been humiliated in the elections, Gurdian wants them to give Candelaria back and, like any other businessman, is hoping for a peaceful transition from the Sandinists to the National Opposition Union (UNO).

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, UNO presidential candidate, defeated Sandinist President Daniel Ortega in Sunday's elections, and UNO candidates are certain to have a majority in the National Assembly.

As president of the Nicaraguan Union of Farmers and Livestock Breeders and vice president of the Private Enterprise High Council, the two most important private institutions in the country, Gurdian was among the drafters of UNO's economic program.

The plan contemplates restoring to private ownership the dozens of enterprises seized by the Sandinists, whose swollen bureaucracy and manifest incompetence turned them into a drain on government resources.

He is also asking for the return of expropriated land, but without hurting the thousands of peasant families that benefited from the Sandinist agrarian reform, very difficult to accomplish in practice.

The UNO leadership knows it cannot eliminate broad sectors of the Sandinist state bureaucracy and the Armed Forces without first creating jobs to absorb those displaced by reforms.

Businessmen also know that political stability is essential in order to get economic activity moving again.

Such stability depends on the Sandinist will to surrender the reins of power. Yesterday Ortega took a hard-line position and asked for the demobilization of guerrillas as a condition for the peaceful transfer of power.

The Sandinists, who will form a strong, cohesive minority in the National Assembly, may oppose many governmental measures and government employees already fear for their jobs.

Negotiations between the Sandinists and leaders of the 14 parties making up UNO have not yet begun, one prominent coalition source said, speaking out with a guarantee of anonymity.

"Right now we cannot push them (Sandinists) because this is a very dangerous time and they are very tense," the source said. "We have to give them room and let them find their own way out."

A number of political decisions have already been made, however.

* Small Parties Big Election Winners

90EM0113G Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] Parties with no popular support and emerging less than 6 months ago, some with fewer than five members in the entire country, appear to be the big winners of the distribution of posts in UNO [National Opposition Union] as a result of National Assembly elections.

Among them is Alfredo Cesar's Social Democratic Party [PSD], which won five seats in the Assembly, the same number obtained by Silviano Matamoros' National Conservative Party, which has triple the PSD's following.

One special case is the so-called Central American Integrationist Party (PIAC), which, although it does not have more than five members in the entire country, will have two deputies in the Legislative Assembly, more than Luis Humberto Guzman's Popular Social Christian Party, which won only two seats.

Experts like Natan Sevilla claim that this peculiarity will in most cases make it impossible for the ruling party to maintain unified internal positions.

"UNO is not a party, but rather, an amalgam of 14 organizations with openly contradictory positions in most cases. It will be very difficult to expect the different political factions to stay unified," the Sandinist deputy said.

The distribution of seats seems mainly to affect so-called "strong" UNO parties such as Godoy's PLI [Independent Liberal Party] and Agustin Jarquin's Party of Trust, each of which obtained only six deputies. In contrast, so-called "leftist" parties: Luis Sanchez' Socialist Party and Eli Altamirano's Communist Party, each obtained three deputy seats.

To the internal division between political factions making up its bench UNO will have to add the many splits existing in the conservative, liberal, social Christian, and social democratic "families."

Liberals will consequently be divided into six neo-Somocists (Pali [Liberal Party of Nicaragua] and PLC [Constitutionalist Liberal Party]) and six supporting Dr Virgilio Godoy's faction; conservatives into five deputies from Dr Miriam Arguello's party and five from Silviano Matamoros' party, with one "faithful to the balance" in the solitary seat for Hernaldo Zuniga's group (ANC [expansion unknown]), another party with no more than 10 members that will now have a seat in the Assembly.

In the case of the Social Christian faction, the main beneficiary is Agustin Jarquin's Party of Trust, which won six seats, compared with four for Dr Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro's faction and two for Luis Humberto Guzman's faction.

Social democrats were split into five seats for Alfredo Cesar's party and three for Roberto Urroz' MDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement], although analysts believe this could be one of the few factions that will quickly find unity by rallying around the figure of Alfredo Cesar, possible president of the National Assembly.

* FSLN Faces Fragmented Opposition

90EM0113H Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Mar 90 p 1

[Article by Roberto Larios]

[Text] A monolithic Sandinist bench facing five factions comprising Violeta Barrios' government bench is how the new National Assembly is shaping up, expert analysts say.

A total of 12 deputies from three liberal factions, 12 Social Christians, 11 conservatives, 8 social democrats, 6 of these "leftists" and 2 "manageable" from the PIAC [Central American Integrationist Party], will reportedly confront the retiring Sandinist Party, which has the enormous political experience of its leader, Major Daniel Ortega, and which could put Major Carlos Nunez, currently Assembly president, in the post of first vice president of the ruling junta.

The big losers in UNO [National Opposition Union] turned out to be the conservative parties, which were sacrificed to minority parties and which ended up with 11 deputies, less than 12 percent of the total. Particularly affected is Dr Silviano Matamoros' Conservative National Party, which, with only 5 deputies, was reduced to a minority faction in the alliance, far less important than other parties such as the PLI [Independent Liberal Party] and the PDCN [Democratic Party of National Trust].

Although it is thought that well-known conservative leaders left out of the National Assembly, such as Matamoros himself and Dr Emilio Alvarez Montalvan, may be "rewarded" with important posts in Barrios' Cabinet, the Conservative Party, with such a tiny representation in Parliament, has been ruled out as the ideological faction of the future in Nicaragua.

In the opinion of sociologist Oscar Rene Vargas, the internal amalgam of ideological factions forming the government bench would make it very difficult to pass any rightist laws going against the people such as one that will surely be promoted by ultraconservative parties.

Nor did Vargas rule out the possibility that some factions of the winning alliance, particularly those with a base among the workers, such as the Communist Party, Socialist Party, or the Party of Trust, may yield in debate on the new Labor Code, for example, to positions of Sandinist Front deputies.

In addition, the very abundance of such contrasting ideological factions as conservatives and liberals or rightists and communists and serious personal differences between their "leaders" will inherently rouse major internal confrontations in the majority bench. Proof of this is the fight now raging within the alliance over who will be appointed president of the National Assembly.

While the so-called UNO Political Council proposes the candidacy of Adan Fletes, Barrios' team of advisers, headed by campaign chief Antonio Lacayo, is nominating Alfredo Cesar.

Analysts explain that this struggle results from the fact that, given the manifest differences during the campaign between Barrios' group and the Political Council, Fletes' appointment could mean a major obstacle to harmony between the Executive and Legislative Branches.

In contrast, given the economic interests evident in Barrios' team of advisers, because of his ties with the U.S. Government and business sectors, Alfredo Cesar becomes an effective interlocutor between the two branches.

Nor do analysts rule out the possibility that the days ahead could witness the emergence of a third candidate proposed by Virgilio Godoy, who, limited to the vice presidency, could be excluded from the vital economic aspects of the government program and confined, along with related parties, to social aspects.

This third candidate might be Jaime Bonilla, who, although he does not have the "stature" of Cesar or Fletes, could be used by Godoy to negotiate a better positioning of his cadres in the Cabinet. Godoy would thus become the major voter in the fight.

* Daily Charges Mayorga, Cesar Disagree on Policy

90EM0113I Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Mar 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Francisco Mayorga, economic adviser to Violeta Chamorro, yesterday threatened to expropriate and privatize production units and government enterprises, cooperative or private, which in his opinion are "unproductive" and "idle," meaning using only 50 percent of their installed capacities.

At a press conference held yesterday at Cabaret Bambana, Mayorga threatened to seize, expropriate, and privatize land or properties which in his opinion "were unjustly confiscated" during the 10 years of the revolution. "We are going to return them to their owners, who want to make them productive," he said.

He added that the UNO [National Opposition Union] National Program defines the economic strategy to be followed and categorically stated that this means "deep changes" in the country's economic structures. He went on to say that this implied that any "idle and poorly managed" government entity would virtually pass into private hands.

Mayorga's threatening speech goes against the country's constitution, analysts consulted said, inasmuch as Articles 103 and 104 clearly establish the existence and preservation of public properties, both cooperative and associative.

For his part, Alfredo Cesar, another of Barrios' advisers, disagreed with Mayorga, noting that those affected by seizures or expropriations could request a review of their cases, but he added that if such land or enterprises are being used, they cannot be returned. Rather, the government would indemnify owners.

"If the process establishes that the seizure was illegal, the government will pay the owner but not return the property," Cesar told national and foreign newsmen at the Bambana yesterday.

According to Cesar, there are "many, many" offers of foreign financing, but he did not go into detail. "They (the offers) must still materialize," he said. Nor did Mayorga wish to be more specific at the press conference. Instead, he was very reluctant to comment on possible foreign aid. "We hope it will be generous," was all he said.

To date, the Bush Administration has not revealed how much financial aid will be given to the future UNO government, although it is a well-known fact that the United States' priority is so-called Eastern-bloc nations such as Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, to which it has offered the ridiculous sum of $100 million. According to news reports, Poland alone needs at least $1 billion.

Bad Times Ahead

Cesar refused to say the UNO government would solve the country's economic problems during the first 100 days, as promised during the election campaign. In his opinion, it will take over 5 years for national production to recover.

Nevertheless, he said the UNO Government Program speaks of an "emergency period" of 100 days during which special measures will be taken to halt inflation, finance the 1990-1991 agricultural season, and activate economically depressed sectors. Cesar refused to admit this burden will mainly be borne by the poor since the national budget must be reduced.

"During these 100 days, there will be fiscal, monetary, exchange, and domestic trade measures," Cesar said, without going into greater detail. "They are aimed at bringing about a shift in the national economy," he added.

However, economic analysts think that without an injection of at least $400 million, UNO's economic emergency period cannot move ahead and that workers and farmers will be the most affected. A reduction in the national budget will mean a substantial reduction in health, social welfare, and education, among other things.

Analysts say the first 100 days of the emergency will be hard times marked by speculation and social unrest.

Panama

Linares on Extraditing Gaspar Suarez From Cuba

PA0404023790 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Apr 90 p 14

[Report by Arnulfo Mendoza]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares said that "there is no bilateral extradition treaty between Cuba and Panama, but there is a private international legal code, commonly called the Bustamante Code, that both Cuba and Panama signed. That code contains rules on extradition."

Therefore, Linares added, we could say that as a result of the Bustamante Code there is an extradition treaty between Cuba and Panama.

When asked whether there is optimism about the possible extradition of politician Luis Gaspar "Toti" Suarez Sierra, who is exiled in Cuba, Linares said that "in this matter I feel neither optimistic nor pessimistic, because it is entirely up to the state to accept or reject our request. I do not believe that our relations with other countries could be harmed at this juncture. I do believe that they could have been harmed had we adopted these measures months ago. This is why we abstained from adopting them at that time—to avoid harming our relations with other Latin American countries. However, at this juncture the effects would be minimal," Linares concluded.

Meanwhile, questioned about Panama's interest in adopting a police system similar to that of Costa Rica's, taking into account the political differences imposed by the canal, which creates great responsibility in terms of security, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, who met with the national and international press, said: "I believe that regarding the Panama Canal we must let time take its course. Perhaps today we cannot agree on ways to defend the canal, but changes in Europe and the USSR and very important changes in development poles and power centers are such that perhaps someday we will discover new ways to regulate the defense of the Panama Canal."

Taiwan Ambassador Cited on Labor Code, Aid

PA0404023190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 1

[Report by Nubio Aparicio]

[Text] Taiwan Ambassador to Panama Soong Chang-chih has said that amendments to the Labor Code are necessary to attract foreign investment. He also announced that his country will help Panama with $11 million.

He said that the Labor Code is a factor that inhibits foreign investors "because if they do not have the necessary guarantees for their investments, they simply will not come."

At a news conference held on 28 March at the Taiwan Embassy, the ambassador said that in his opinion, the Labor Code is a very advanced and equitable law that is suitable for workers in industrialized and developed countries.

He added that those labor laws are "very good, but not adequate for Panama, because this country is just beginning to develop."

He added that "if workers are overly protected, it will scare capitalists, who will not come to invest in Panama."

He stressed that this is the main problem, "and that is precisely why we are negotiating with the Panamanian Government on signing guarantees for foreign investors."

According to the diplomat, if the Labor Code cannot be amended, there should at least be another special code to regulate a free zone project in Panama that has been drafted by the Taiwan Government, "as that would give investors more guarantees. Otherwise, they will not be encouraged to come to Panama to do business here."

Ambassador Soong announced that his government will give Panama $11 million in aid, to be invested in two sectors.

He said that $10 million will be to build houses for low-income families, and $1 million to finance micro and small enterprises.

According to Soong, both amounts were already approved by the Chinese Government and the credit will be received through the International Bank of Taiwan and the National Savings Bank.

He added that the contract will be ready by next month. Once it is signed, the aid will arrive in Panama.

Ambassador Soong said that another project to be carried out by the Taiwan government will be establishing a free zone for export industries.

He said that the Taiwan Government is investing $10 million in that project, for which the two countries must sign an agreement.

"We hope to sign that agreement soon. Once the factories are established the investment in the zone will be $50 to $100 million," he stressed.

According to Ambassador Soong, the project could generate from 5,000 to 10,000 jobs once it starts operating.

He said that once the free zone is built, Taiwanese businessmen would be brought to invest in it. He added that the idea is not only having Taiwanese businessmen invest in the free zone, but other foreign and Panamanian businessmen as well.

The free zone could be installed in an area near the city of Colon. However, the investors are interested in an area near Panama City, the ambassador said.

He said that he has discussed the subject with Second Vice President Guillermo Ford on several occasions, "and we totally agree with the government's policy on the possible privatization of state-run companies. That is a very good idea for Panama's economic reconstruction," he stressed.

Ambassador Soong recommended to the President of the Republic that he invite the Evergreen Company to return to Panama and invest here.

The ambassador also announced that the Taiwan Government had donated agricultural equipment valued at $330,000 to Panama.

Column Rejects Mexico's Right To Judge

PA0304011690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Apr 90 p 1

[Unattributed "As of Today" column]

[Text] Since it was founded in 1929, the National Revolutionary Party—known as the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) since 1946—has had a monopoly on the government in Mexico. Even though Mexico is constitutionally a state with a democratic form of government, political practice has made it a party dictatorship. It is for just this reason that when the military regime in Panama felt it necessary to disguise its nature through constitutional reforms that would legally permit the functioning of political parties, it adopted the PRI as a model for the creation of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] for the manifest purpose of establishing a party dictatorship similar to the Mexican model. Fortunately, the accumulated weight of the vices and errors of the military and their civilian servants caused the audacious political experiment to fail. Over the past two decades, the Mexican Government gave special treatment to the Panamanian military regime and defended it, justified it, and even praised it in all international forums. Further, in 1987, when the situation that existed in Panama was well known to all, both inside the country and abroad, Mexico decorated Noriega, to the indignation of Panamanians who believe in civilian government. The Mexican Government has no political or moral authority to judge the legitimacy of our leaders, as President Endara has rightfully said. It would be better off seeking to renew its own political system, with an eye toward honoring, at least this once, the principles that the betrayed Mexican revolution enshrined in the 1917 Constitution.

Commentary Deplores Tension With Cuba

PA3003193990 Panama City Radio Cadena Millonaria in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Commentary by Julio Ortega on the "Toward the Truth" program]

[Text] The most important news in Panama today was the government's decision to politicize the Cuban ambassador's departure from the country. This is a step toward a break in relations with Cuba, and it creates a tense situation in our country. This morning I do not want to analyze the criteria that led the government to make this decision. I am simply going to analyze the topic as if I were outside the country and observing the developments in Panama.

Beginning in 1968, Panama's foreign policy, shaped by Omar Torrijos, had given Panama a prominent position in the balance of East-West relations. Panama earned the respect of other nations and was not afraid to maintain relations with Cuba and establish a cordial dialogue with all the nations of the world. This benefited and strengthened Panama. Panama played an important role in the formation of the Contadora Group, in the Group of Eight, and in the attempts to solve the Central American problem.

However, matters did not stop there. The U.S. invasion of Panama occurred, and Panamanian foreign policy immediately began to veer in the direction of U.S. interests. From my point of view, the breaking of relations; that is, the situation that came about with Cuba yesterday, converts Panama, in the eyes of the international community and as far as the international law of coexistence is concerned, into an instrument of—or into a country whose foreign policy is dictated by—U.S. interests.

Maybe it is advisable that we do so to please the United States. However, the sad part is that we have been catering to U.S. interests, but the millions of dollars and the aid that were promised to Panama have not yet arrived. The situation that has arisen is going to cause great harm to Panama's trade and exports. It is no secret that this trade amounted to millions of dollars and that many businessmen, who, as a matter of fact, were members of the Civic Crusade and the Chamber of Commerce, were doing millions of dollars worth of business with Cuba.

If I looked at this as a person with political interests, I would consider this a further blunder by the government. However, I respect the decision that has been adopted. All I want to bring out is my concern that we have problems of an international nature with Mexico, Peru, and Cuba. We look like blustering and strutting fighters in Latin America and like obedient and meek beggars in the United States. Ninety days ago there was talk of $2 billion to Panama; then the figure was lowered to $1 billion, and a few days ago we were talking of $500 million. Yesterday, there was talk of $150 million. This is less than 10 percent of the amount that was originally supposed to be given to Panama as soon as Noriega left and Endara, Ford, and Arias took over the presidency, that is, this country's government.

Therefore, I believe that we are returning to 1968 both internally and externally. In other words, the first 100 days seem to indicate that, instead of advancing, we are going back to the economic, governmental, and foreign policy schemes that existed before 1968.

Today I want to gain the attention of President Guillermo Endara Galimany, Government Minister and Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, all of whom I have had the opportunity of knowing during adverse times. I want to ask them to please reason a little and to rectify the situation, not because we want to defend Cuba, which is secondary, but because our country has been weakened. We are in a situation which is progressive but at the same time makes us more dependent in many ways on the country that invaded us and occupies us. Some groups do not have the courage to accept this. There are groups that applaud this situation and want it to remain as it is because they feel secure and because it is convenient for them. However, the nation's integrity, image, and sovereignty are practically being impaired, without having received anything in exchange so far.

What Euclides Fuentes Arroyo said yesterday is true. Panama's image abroad is that of a subdued, subjugated, and occupied country, which now is directed according to interests that are not really those of the Republic of Panama.

Catholic Paper Criticizes Parliament Resolution

PA0104020390 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 25 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Resolution on the Latin American Parliament"]

[Text] The integration of the various nations that form a continent or share common interests requires international organizations that will help in that task within a framework of respect and solidarity. In this manner there are groups such as the European Community, the British Commonwealth of Nations, the Andean Pact, and many others. Integration has reached the point where it has created regional parliaments, such as the Latin American Parliament, to achieve political goals that seek the unity of the countries that comprise it.

During the recent extraordinary session in La Paz, Bolivia, the Latin American Parliament approved a resolution condemning the armed action carried out by the United States against Panama last 20 December 1989, demanding the withdrawl of the U.S. forces from Panamanian territory, and urging the Panamanian people to return to the democratic principles and practices pointed out by the constitution and the laws of the Republic of Panama.

The above-mentioned resolution that seeks to comply with the parameters of human rights, respect for national sovereignty, and international organizations, seems to be unaware—in its anti-imperalistic blindness—of the reality of the Panamanian people who were quelled by their own soldiers who mocked the self-determination of the people when the people's will was expressed at the polls on 7 May 1989.

Many of those who voted in favor of the same resolution witnessed the subjugation imposed by the Manuel Antonio Noriega regime against the Panamanian people based on violence, corruption, and death.

For some unknown reasons, the governments represented at the Latin American parliament forgot the suffering of the Panamanians. In this manner, they became accomplices—through omission—of the dictator

Noriega, and they are responsible—also through omission—for the U.S. armed intervention. We Panamanians have had to accept this intervention as a sort of redeeming solution, after the OAS, the United Nations, and even the Latin American Parliament closed its doors on us for a political solution and paved the way for a possible civil war that would have taken a high toll in bloodshed, mourning, and sorrow.

The aforementioned resolution also demands compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties—an agreement endorsed by the majority of Latin American governments—which legalize the right the United States has for unilateral intervention and allows for the presence of the U.S. Army until the year 2000. This demagogic demand shows that the Latin American parliamentarians do not know anything at all about the canal treaty itself, and therefore, of the national reality of the Panamanian people.

Argentina

Menem Comments on Yacyreta Project, Other Topics

PY0304153080 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (TELAM)—Today President Carlos Menem did not dismiss the possibility of federal intervention in Tucuman if the "chaotic" situation in that province necessitates the implementation of the central government's law on intervention. Menem also warned those labor unions that are persisting in their measures of force and "overlooking the situation the country is experiencing" about the possibility of losing their legal status.

Menem made these statements this morning to journalists accredited to Government House, telling them that "I am going to tolerate the situation in Tucuman as long as possible" but warning that "if this continues" we will have to adopt measures "because it is causing great damage, not only to the province but also to the Republic."

Regarding the measures of force adopted by the various labor unions, he asserted that "they are not going to get paid for the days they do not work" and that the government "is going to implement a plan to do away with the chapter of demands made daily by the labor unions."

Regarding the railway strike and the political demands, Menem said that, in using these measures of force, "they are mistaken if they think they are going to change the government's decision to privatize public enterprises that are completely in the red."

Asked whether any international organization had questioned the project, Menem said that "nobody, not the World Bank or anybody else, has objected to the privatization project because it is a priority issue for Argentina."

Menem reiterated that in three or four months it will be possible "to make a more severe and accurate" assessment of the situation in Argentina. After stating that the calm in the markets "might be a dead calm that should not lead to false expectations," Menem noted that "not everything is right, but we are on the right path."

He also said that the possibility of Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa resigning was never mentioned and attributed these rumors "to some ill-minded person or someone who aspires to that post." Menem added, however, that should the current interior minister have to leave his post for any reason, he will be replaced by his immediate successor, Interior Under Secretary Rodolfo Barra.

After stating that "he fully agrees with the document drawn up by the National Justicialist Council," Menem categorically denied rumors that Argentina would help Egypt to build the "Condor" rocket or in the use of atomic energy for war purposes.

Lastly, Menem labeled the delays in the construction of the Yacyreta dam and the way in which the project has been handled as "a monument to corruption," saying that studies will be carried out to suspend the project for six months "to review it." Menem explained that the dam was initially going to cost $1.5 billion and that, so far, only 50 percent of the dam has been built for $3 billion. This means that to meet the operational deadline in 1993 it will be necessary to invest some $12 billion.

In a statement this morning to journalists accredited to Government House, Menem said: "If there is a monument to corruption, Yacyreta is it."

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1410 GMT on 3 April carries a similar report datelined Buenos Aires which reports that "Argentine President Carlos Menem today said that the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam is a 'true monument to corruption' and that its joint construction with Paraguay will be suspended for six months 'to review the project and cut expenditures.'"]

Under Secretary To Speak on Tax Collection

PY0304222890 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 April p 3

[Text] [NA-DYN]—Public Finance Undersecretary Raul Cuello will speak tonight at 8pm on national radio and television to address various aspects of the country's fiscal situation, it was announced yesterday.

Anticipating some points of his speech, Cuello confirmed that tax collection for March surpassed two billion australs, an amount representing a 9.8 percent figure of 1.8 billion australs.

The official attributed this increase to the "improved adherence to fiscal obligations and more efficient administration."

In other matters, Cuello said that the IVA [Value Added Tax] rebates for exporters have begun as of April 1, which will be paid in cash fifteen days after the export operation.

Consulted about the existence of a national company which has not paid its taxes, and which has been compared with the Spanish holding company Rumasa whose downfall was caused by similar situation, Cuello replied that "you would be putting me in a difficult spot if you asked me to name this Argentine Rumasa, because I don't know if there's only one.

"Tax evasion as much as contraband are mechanisms utilized by those who had more power inside the society to place the burden on others, and I believe that this type of things is changing," he added.

Finally, he said, "in these cases you don't go from black to white automatically. The efforts of the government to create clear rules of the game are important, to understand that ethical conduct has to return to become part of ourselves."

Bolivia

ADN Leader To Visit USSR, West Europe

PY0304125690 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] (Hernando Mesner), National Democratic Action [ADN] public relations secretary, has announced the upcoming visit of General Hugo Banzer Suarez to the Soviet Union, the FRG, and Spain. This is an excellent opportunity to establish better relations and to let people know about the situation in our country.

[Begin (Mesner) recording] [Word indistinct] of the party will follow a tight schedule in several European countries over the next few days. He will first visit the Soviet Union at the invitation of several organizations, including the world mass media organization that is sponsoring this event.

Several former presidents from many countries and high-level political leaders have been invited, among them former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Former German Foreign Minister Helmut Schmidt, former Argentine Presidents Raul Alfonsin and Arturo Frondizi, former Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero, and former Bolivian Presidents Lidia Gueiler, Walter Guevara Arce, and General Hugo Banzer Suarez. Other European personalities will also attend the event.

This will be the first of Gen. Banzer's activities in the Soviet Union. The six-day debate will feature talks on important matters such as perestroyka and its effect at the regional and global levels. [end recording]

MNR Supports Use of Armed Forces in Drug Fight

PY0304023290 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement [MNR] agrees that the Armed Forces should participate in the struggle against drug trafficking. This party [words indistinct] (?the formation) of a special force, comprising the Armed Forces and the National Police.

This proposal is based on the formation of a special force and, in the future, special Army, Air Force, Navy, and police units, the MNR claims. (?The proposal suggests) that the special forces be commanded by a special joint command in which the three branches are represented. [passage indistinct]

Brazil

Economy Minister Proposes Brady Plan Expansion

PY0304221490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2011 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Montreal, 2 Apr (EFE)—Brazil, the most heavily indebted developing country, proposed in Montreal today the expansion of the Brady Plan to reduce the foreign debt.

In her speech at the 31st IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] Assembly, Brazilian Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello today said: "We admit that progress has been made in several initiatives (over the debt), but we believe that they should be extended."

More than one year ago U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady proposed a plan to voluntarily reduce the foreign debt of the 17 most heavily indebted countries and to lower the interest paid on loans granted to those countries by private international banks.

Cardoso de Mello today reaffirmed that the Brazilian Government will not initiate negotiations with the private creditors until the Brazilian Congress approves the economic measures decreed by President Fernando Collor de Mello last month.

During her speech, which was closely followed by those attending the assembly, Cardoso de Mello reiterated that in future negotiations with the international financial organizations Brazil will submit "proposals that can lead to permanent solutions and can put an end to the contradicting agreements that have been characteristic of the previous foreign debt negotiations."

Cardoso de Mello also anticipated some of the proposals she is planning to submit to the international financing organizations.

After explaining the main objectives of the Brazilian president's economic plan, Cardoso de Mello said: "We expect that some of the international financing institutions and members of the international financial community will recognize the sacrifices being made by Brazilian society."

After arduous negotiations, Mexico, one of the most heavily indebted countries, reached an agreement with the international private banks to reduce its foreign debt by approximately 20 percent. Venezuela has submitted five proposals to its creditors in an attempt to reduce its foreign debt.

Cardoso de Mello announced today that Brazil wants to make internal adjustments to prevent foreign creditors from establishing the guidelines for the Brazilian economic plan as occurred in the past.

"We will take a different course of action," Cardoso de Mello said.

Cardoso de Mello left for Washington where she will meet tomorrow with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, with U.S. Foreign Trade Minister Carla Hills and with IMF Director Michel Camdessus.

Congress Approves First Provisional Measures

PY0404031890 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Antonio Carlos Silva from Congress]

[Text] During today's afternoon session, Congress approved the first provisional measures of the New Brazil Plan. The first provisional measure to be debated was about the sale of the ministers' mansions in Brasilia. The approved measure establishes that the resources resulting from the sale will be invested in federal housing projects of social interest. Congress rejected a proposal made by Deputy Francisco Aguiar Carneiro of the Brasilia PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party], suggesting that the funds thus obtained be invested in Federal District works.

The Congress also voted on the provisional measure that limits the investment of state-owned enterprises in private welfare institutions. The basic measure was approved, while the amendment proposed by Deputy Florestan Fernandez—which suggested that the (?Social Welfare Institute) be abolished and its duties be transferred to the INSS [National Social Security Institute]—was rejected.

Senator Humberto Lucena's conversion project related to Provisional Measure 163—which establishes rules for dismissing employees involved in crimes against the public treasury and property—was also approved.

A few minutes ago, Congress approved Provisional Measure 164, the fourth item of the agenda, which deals with taxes that are collected by the Federal Government. Provisional Measure 165, which deals with the identification of the taxpayers for fiscal objectives, was also approved. Provisional Measure 169—that authorizes the executive branch to auction the federal government's active debt—was withdrawn from the agenda.

Cabrera Named New Agriculture Minister by Collor

PY0304185390 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Excerpt] New Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera Filho was sworn in today at Planalto Palace. He is the youngest minister in Collor's Government.

All top-level advisers of the government were present at the installation ceremony. Former Agriculture Minister Joaquim Roriz also greeted the new minister. Cabrera is another representative of the young generation in the government. [passage omitted]

Agrarian Reform Planned

PY0404020690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Mair Lucy Vilela]

[Text] In an interview with the press today, right after his installation at the Planalto Palace, Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera Mano Filho said that agrarian reform is a priority for the Agriculture Ministry. He explained that the properties, including those that have been already expropriated, will be reregistered to enable the rural sector, the private sector, and the ministry to implement an agrarian reform program together. Cabrera pointed out that agrarian reform cannot be implemented without an adequate agricultural policy and that a national council for land related matters will be created to deal with the issue. The new agriculture minister also said that during his time in office, the farmers will have an open channel at the ministry, which will be headed by a spokesman who will convey to them all the governmental decisions.

Cabrera also reported on the creation of consulting committees to evaluate the effects of the New Brazil Plan in rural areas, and added that, so far, the effects have been varied.

The small and medium-size farmers will receive more governmental help during Cabrera's term as head of the ministry, because all that the large farmers need, he said, is for the government to not disturb them.

Regarding the development of new rural technologies, Antonio Cabrera said that his goal is to assign three percent of the agricultural gross product to research, and that another goal is to increase production by five percent. He intends to do it through Embrapa [Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Enterprise], which will have more responsibilities and absorb the rural extension services that were previously performed by Embrater [Brazilian Rural Extension and Technical Assistance Enterprise], which has been dismantled.

During the interview, Minister Cabrera announced the resources on which the farmers can count from now on. He noted that the credit line for the payment of rural workers, which the Economy Ministry has released, does not include small farmers and those who lease the land. He added, however, that this problem will soon be resolved.

Radiobras Undergoes 'Broad Reorganization'

PY0304125790 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Radiobras [Brazilian Communication Enterprise] chairmanship has started a broad reorganization that includes the creation of the Brazil Agency [Agencia Brasil]. The new agency's services include radiojournalism, telejournalism, and texts services, and it will be in charge of broadcasting in a clear, broad, and effective manner the thoughts of the president of the Republic and of his team. [passage omitted]

According to Radiobras Chairman Marcelo Netto, the Brazil Agency will be part of the rationalization and simplification process at Radiobras:

[Begin Netto recording] The creation of the Brazil Agency was preceded by a broad administrative reform at Radiobras. Several organizations were dismantled, and several departments were simplified while others were dismantled. Many of the functions that were being duplicated were eliminated. Therefore, the creation of

the Brazil Agency was preceded by a broader reorganization, which has already resulted in a reduction of Radiobras expenses. [end recording]

The Radiobras chairman asserted that the administrative process will continue in accordance with President Fernando Collor's guidelines: modernization, simplification, and reduction of expenses.

Chile

Navy Commander Notes 'Concern' Over Soviet Ships

PY0204184690 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch has conveyed to Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma the Navy's concern over the presence of Soviet fishing ships within Chile's exclusive 200-mile zone.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The Navy has conveyed its concern over the presence of Soviet ships within Chile's exclusive 200-mile zone. There are two points to be considered. First, there is a biological factor, because any activity within the zone has a direct influence on its biomass. Second, there are strategic changes and modifications taking place at the global level. [end recording]

The Navy commander reported that 70 to 80 Soviet fishing ships of 4,000 to 6,000 tons usually operate in the Pacific Ocean.

Silva Cimma is now having lunch with leaders of the CUT [United Labor Federation], which is headed by Manuel Bustos.

Disturbances at Santiago Courthouse; 39 Detained

PY0304122790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Violent incidents broke the tranquillity of the day at the courthouse. The Supreme Court has agreed to relay to the president of the Republic, Patricio Aylwin Azocar, the seriousness of the situation at the courthouse where groups of demonstrators chained themselves and attacked Appellate Court President Guillermo Navas Bustamante.

The incidents became so serious that the Supreme Court asked for Carabineros to clear the courthouse and restore order in the building. In light of this, Carabineros special forces personnel entered the courthouse. When the demonstrators attacked courthouse guards, and after one of them even slapped Appellate Court President Navas, the Carabineros were forced to stop them. The police detained 39 persons, including 21 women, four of whom are minors, and 18 men.

According to information gathered at the scene, these incidents took place while the Supreme Court was in session and about to rule on the proposals concerning political prisoners raised by the Human Rights Commission. It was exactly at that moment when the courthouse was invaded by a large number of persons who identified themselves as members of the People's Rights Committee [Comite de Derechos del Pueblo], the Dignity and Justice Movement [Movimiento Dignidad y Justicia], and the Mothers of Political Prisoners Group [Agrupacion de Madres de Presos Politicos]. First to attempt to calm the demonstrators were courthouse guards, many of whom were injured and had to be brought to medical centers.

The Supreme Court agreed to cancel its working session in light of the absence of sufficient security measures for the building and the judges themselves. This decision of the nation's Supreme Court was the result of the incidents at the courthouse, incidents that have seriously limited the exercise of their constitutional powers.

The text of the Supreme Court's agreement officially sent to the president of the Republic and to the justice minister is the following:

An extraordinary Supreme Court plenum, chaired by Luis Maldonado and attended by Justices Correa, Ulloa, Aburto, Cereceda, Jordan, Zurita, Faundez, Davila, Veron, Araya, Perales, Valenzuela, and Alvarez, was held in Santiago on 2 April.

Bearing in mind that at about 1500 a group of women and men broke into the 2d floor of the Santiago courthouse where the Supreme Court operates, and that the Supreme Court was holding a plenary working session that was abruptly interrupted by the shouts of demonstrators who even chained themselves to the balustrades in the galleries, the Supreme Court agreed to cancel the session in view of the absence of adequate security measures for the building and the judges performing their duties.

It was also agreed to convey this situation to the president of the Republic, to whom the public force is subordinated. This event has seriously limited the exercise of the constitutional powers of this Supreme Court and those of the Santiago Appellate Court as described under Article 1256 of the penal code and Article 6, letter 'b' of the State Interior Security Law.

Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange has met with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss at the La Moneda Palace. In a preliminary assessment of the events that took place at the courthouse, Stange said the following to the press:

[Begin recording] [Stange, in progress] ... to dislodge the interior of the courthouse in accordance with a Supreme Court resolution.

[Reporter] The Supreme Court asked for the police forces to appear.

[Stange] Yes, that is correct.

[Reporter] How many people have been detained?

[Stange] Thirty-nine and a married lady.

[Reporter] It is said that the police forces acted very harshly, General.

[Stange] They will always say that because [laughs] things that move public opinion must be said. Here, I can guarantee you that the Carabineros act calmly and appropriately. If they will also chain themselves somewhere it is only natural to cut their chains. [end recording]

Gen. Stange made the remarks at the end of a meeting with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss. Stange invited Krauss to attend the celebrations to mark the Carabineros' anniversary on 27 April.

38 Detainees Released

PY0404015890 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Report by Rene Zigli]

[Text] Of the 39 persons detained yesterday in the courthouse incident, 38 were released and summoned to testify before the Third Local Police Court. Charges of promoting disturbances were brought against them. Erna Martinez, who is facing charges for attacking Carabineros on duty, is the only detainee who was placed at the disposal of the military courts.

According to remarks made by the detainees who were released, Erna Martinez broke one of her arms as a result of the courthouse incident. The women were taken to the 28th and 30th Carabineros precincts, while the men were taken to the first Carabinero precinct. They were eventually released after police authorities verified their home addresses.

Colombia

Liberal Senator Reportedly Kidnapped in Medellin

PA0404072690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report by Jorge Alonso Sierra Valencia in Medellin]

[Text] Liberal Senator Federico Estrada Velez was kidnapped on 3 April at the corner of 60th and 48th Streets in western Medellin, only 100 meters from a Metropolitan Police CAI [Immediate Attention Center]. The Antioquia Department Liberal Party leader had left his house only minutes earlier without any bodyguards. As he waited for the traffic light to change, three heavily armed men forced him to get out of his car and get into a blue Renault.

Hours later, through anonymous telephone calls to the Metropolitan Police and the media, the Extraditables claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. In the calls, they announced that they will release the senator with a new message for the national government.

Just Last week, Federico Estrada Velez had rejected talks between the government and the drug traffickers.

Police Confirm Kidnapping

PA0304145890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1422 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 3 Apr (EFE)—The police in Medellin, Antioquia Department, in the northwestern part of Colombia, have officially announced that Senator Federico Estrada Velez, one of the most important leaders of Colombia's Liberal Party, was kidnapped by unidentified individuals in Medellin today.

Estrada Velez, 64, was intercepted near the Atanasio Girardot football stadium in Medellin while he was without bodyguards, and was forced to accompany an unspecified number of unidentified individuals.

The politician, lawyer, and former Colombian ambassador to Italy was kidnapped in the same place where Colonel Waldemar Franklin Quintero, chief of police in Antioquia, was assassinated last year.

Franklin Quintero was assassinated on 18 August 1989, a few hours before Liberal Party presidential hopeful Luis Carlos Galan was killed in the town of Soacha, on the outskirts of Bogota. The two murders were attributed to the Medellin Cartel, one of the main cocaine trafficking organizations in the world. After the assassinations, the government of Liberal President Virgilio Barco declared total war on the drug mafias.

Police Find Medellin Cartel Comunications Center

PA0404073390 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0007 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] During searches today in Medellin, the capital of Antioquia Department, authorities discovered what they have called a very important communications center of the Medellin Cartel.

As part of Metropolitan Police operations, in response to the attacks against Army members in Medellin, the authorities today dismantled a communications center belonging to the Medellin Cartel. In a residence located in El Poblado neighborhood, the authorities found 15 portable communication radios; two cordless telephones; two magnetic antennas for radios; three ICOM receivers; seven batteries; 12 antennas for portable radios; five voltage regulators; and four adapters.

According to the police report, documents linking several people to the assassinations of Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento, Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa, and of Colonel Valdemar Franklin Quintero were found at the Medellin Cartel communications center, as well as documents about the perpetrators of the attack on the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] headquarters in Bogota, and against the Avianca HK1803 plane. Police sources reported that no arrests have been made.

Troops Foil ELN Terrorist Plans, Kill Three

PA0404025690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota— 5th Brigade troops discovered a terrorist plan following a clash with ELN [Army of National Liberation] rebels in Bucaramanga. According to a report issued by the 5th Brigade Command office, members of that military garrison, carrying out intelligence and follow-up operations against an ELN urban group in Bucaramanga, clashed with the subversives last night. The military action ocurred on Quebrada Seca Avenue and 15th Street in the city's business sector. There was heavy shooting, resulting in the death of three guerrillas killed in action. Troops seized weapons and ammunition from the dead rebels, as well as documents and maps of the city. The documents included a terrorist plan that involved dynamite attacks on military garrisons and regional government offices.

Congressman's Extradition to Puerto Rico Pending

PA0304214990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1713 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 3 Apr (EFE)—The Colombian Government has notified Social Conservative Party Congressman Jacobo Marino Mendez of his extradition to Puerto Rico in compliance with a request from Puerto Rican authorities. The authorities have accused him of conspiracy for the distribution of marijuana, it was reported today.

Marino Mendez was arrested by the police in a Barranquilla hospital in the Atlantico Department, located on Colombia's Caribbean coast, on 19 March.

On 28 March, the congressman was taken to Bogota, where he was notified on 2 April by the Justice Ministry of his arrest and the extradition request.

A Puerto Rican court has accused the social conservative politician of smuggling large quantities of marijuana onto the island.

Jacobo Marino Mendez, 42, has said he is innocent of the charges filed by the Puerto Rican authorities and added that the only time he visited the island was back in 1982 during a five-day stopover on his way to New York.

The congressman has a five-day time limit from the notification date in which to file an appeal.

Currently, 14 Colombian citizens are awaiting a ruling on their extradition, mainly to the United States, for drug trafficking crimes.

The Virgilio Barco government resumed the extradition of alleged drug traffickers, accused by the United States, on 18 August 1989 following the assassination of a police chief and Liberal Party presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan.

Since then, the Colombian authorities have captured 26 alleged drug traffickers and extradited 15 of them, the last of which was Fernando Gutierrez Perez last week.

* FARC, ELN Growing Coca in Arauca

90ET0146D Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Feb 90 p 11B

[Text] In Arauca this weekend, the Army found new evidence of the links between the guerrilla groups operating in that region and the drug traffickers.

In a military operation carried out by units of the Los Panches Counterguerrilla Battalion, three camps shared by the Army of National Liberation (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) were dismantled. At that site, 15 hectares planted in coca were found. Three individuals, including one woman, were arrested.

Troops of the Second Operational Command occupied an extensive wooded zone within the Puerto Jordan district, and engaged in a battle with the guerrillas which lasted an hour. There were no casualties.

The commander of this military garrison, Colonel Ramon Santander, said that the participation of a FARC column in support of the ELN guerrilla fighters in the clashes was evident. The battle occurred on the left bank of the Ele River, where traces of blood were later found.

Santander said that the soldiers found three camps, two older ones and a new one. The new one, which was the largest, could have served to shelter 30 men.

Within the structures there were five sets of field equipment, two Claymore bombs, six guided explosive charges, ELN and FARC bracelets, police uniforms, 77 copies of the FARC bylaws, notebooks containing information on the structure of the combat cadres of the organization, and abundant ammunition.

Colonel Santander said that on either side of the camps, in small clearings among the trees, there were 15 hectares of coca plantings. This officer believes that there are more plantings camouflaged by other vegetation.

During this operation, two men and a woman, who were carrying more than 2 million pesos in cash, were arrested.

They were taken to Arauca, where they are being interrogated, because they have not as yet given any real explanation of the reason for their presence at the site. Their names have not been released.

Twenty km away from the camps, the Army has located a kitchen for drug processing. There 150 kg of coca paste, two bundles of permanganate, and three 55-gallon containers containing chopped-up coca leaves were found and confiscated.

Santander stated that thanks to the counterguerrilla efforts of the garrison under his command, it has been possible to reduce subversive actions, to the point that

there have been no further kidnappings in Arauca this year, and the mobile reserves of the ELN or the FARC have been eliminated.

Peru

Terrorists Intimidate Election Officials

PY0404004890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 3 Apr (EFE)—Hundreds of people who have been designated as electoral table officials in Lima for the 8 April election, have asked to be relieved of this responsibility because they are afraid of reprisals from the Shining Path guerrilla group. This fear has also forced officials to dispense with the use of indelible ink on voters in areas under a state of emergency.

In an attempt to facilitate voting and to prevent the Shining Path from taking reprisals against voters, Peruvian electoral officials have decided to dispense with the use of indelible ink in areas under state of emergency, that is, in nearly half of the Peruvian territory.

This measure was adopted following the recent November municipal election, during which Shining Path activists murdered 10 voters who had indelible ink on their fingers and cut the inked forefingers of other voters.

Last week, the daily average of electoral table officials, randomly selected, who requested that they be exempted from this duty, out of fear of Shining Path reprisals, stood at 100, at least in Lima. On 2 April, however, the number of requests for exemption doubled.

A large number of those designated to preside over electoral tables have not yet picked up their credentials according to sources of the National Electoral Board (JNE).

In the face of possible terrorist attacks, the government has contracted life insurance policies for the nearly 250,000 electoral officials who will oversee more than 52,000 tables nationwide.

The defense minister, General Julio Velazquez Giacarini, has stated that the Armed Forces will guarantee the integrity of the election and has urged voters to report to the polling stations en masse.

The political-military command today ordered a curfew in Huancayo, the capital of Junin Department, in the Peruvian central mountain range. The curfew will be observed from 2200 to 0500 in the eight provinces located in that area.

The curfew was prompted by the almost daily attacks in the main cities of the region, namely in Huancayo and in the mining city of La Oroya.

Nine employees of the state-owned mining enterprise Centromin Peru, which is based in La Oroya, died on 2 April when their vehicle ran over a bomb.

Terrorists also bombed and seriously damaged an empty restaurant yesterday in Huancayo. Three people died in an attack on a government office in Cajamarca in the northern department of Cajabamba.

At the request of electoral officials, a Lima prosecutor is conducting an investigation into charges of electoral fraud that have been leveled by the press against the ruling party.

The JNE has asked the prosecutor to investigate press charges about the alleged printing of ballots at the printing shop of the Peruvian Telephone Company (CPT).

Deputy Roberto Ramirez del Villar of the center-right coalition Democratic Front (Fredemo), which is led by author Mario Vargas Llosa, has charged that similar ballots were being printed at the post office and at the state-owned company Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise].

It has been charged that these ballots are being printed by supporters of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) and that these ballots will be marked and delivered to voters who will then cast them in the 8 April election.

Enrique Larosa, the Fredemo representative to the JNE, has said that JNE President Carlos Castaneda personally assured him that no ballot can be cast without the signature of the electoral official presiding over the respective polling place.

IU Candidate Pease Outlines Terrorism Program

PY0304134190 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 16 Mar 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Henry Pease, United Left [IU] presidential candidate, has said that if the IU assumes power it will fight terrorism with a new strategy, in keeping with the objective of transforming the state. He added that from the beginning the IU will reject and fight terrorists who try to forcefully impose a dictatorship of the minority, who decide for themselves the right to kill in the name of the "social revolution".

Pease challenged Fredemo [Democratic Front] to take a leading position, as it did when the current government tried to put the financial system under state control. He also criticized the "old colonial establishment, showing its aggressiveness in its liberal speech which, as natives say, is intended for the whites."

Pease made these statements during a speech at the "Conference for Peace" in the auditorium of the Lima Bar Association. The conference is sponsored by the National Center, Intercenter Association, and by the Socialism and Democracy Institute. [passage omitted]

Pease said that the IU strongly disagrees with the systems implemented by the last two governments to fight violence. "Whoever rules the state cannot do so as if they are the highest level of a democratic society. Democracy

is about to be established here and it has to be built with the support of the people. Terrorism is rejected because it resorts to murder and other crimes which in turn lead to militarization and increased violence." In the third place, Pease said, the IU will focus on the need to implement its economic transformation program, especially in emergency areas. He said the IU will also immediately restore law and order in the emergency areas, adding that "the IU takes actions in the most troubled areas of the country and resolutely defends the people's right to organize, to participate, and to elect their authorities."

Concerning the fight against terrorism, Pease said this is a matter which concerns both the military and political sectors. Pease announced that his government will replace the political military commands with emergency civilian governments and that it will dismantle the so-called Rodrigo Franco Command.

Pease said the IU will promote self-defense of social organizations against violence as an alternative to civil defense, especially in the emergency areas.

Comments on Foreign Investment

PY0304141790 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Mar 90 p 3

[Excerpts] United Left Presidential Candidate Henry Pease Garcia yesterday said the IU is not against foreign investments. However, the IU advocates complete openness in foreign investment negotiations. Pease said that if he is elected on 8 April, negotiations will not be held in secret. To the contrary, all foreign investment agreements will be openly debated so that the country may be aware of what is being done and national resources may be safeguarded. Pease said an open and transparent foreign investment policy will grant the eventual IU administration sufficient moral authority to demand all national sectors help solve national problems.

Pease appeared in the Enfoque de los Sabados program conducted by Dennis Vargas Marin in Radioprogramas del Peru. Pease answered questions from a panel of journalists; Arturo Salazar Larrain, Fernando Rospigliosi, and LA REPUBLICA Newspaper Director Alejandro Sakuda.

Salazar Larrain asked Pease about his position on foreign investment. Salazar saw contradictions between Pease's position and that upheld by some IU members. Pease answered: "All this is part of the defamation campaign that rightist sectors are carrying out against the IU." He also said that no one in the IU is opposed to foreign investments or to businessmen in general. He added: "Our only concern with either Peruvian or foreign capital is that it should pay taxes and that it should effectively meet national interests." [passage omitted]

Henry Pease added that the IU economic program not only advocates a coherent government policy regarding the business sector, but also tax measures and the growth of the production apparatus. He said that far from implementing an indiscriminate economic shock policy, the IU is proposing a harsh economic rehabilitation policy without salary reductions or a market contraction. He also expressed his complete opposition to paternalistic assistance, although he said that low income sectors must be helped. [passage omitted]

Responding to another question, Henry Pease Garcia said the best way to struggle against subversion and terrorism is to organize and strengthen grassroots organizations. He said: "It deals with the development of communities and organized groups, but not like in Huayhuaco." [referring to a town where guns were supplied to citizens] [passage omitted]

LA REPUBLICA Newspaper Director Alejandro Sakuda asked Pease about the social support program the IU will implement if it is elected. Pease said that the best social assistance program is to generate jobs without overlooking the priority attention that must be granted to mothers and children, or the implementation of selective subsidies for nutrition programs.

Pease added that unlike Fredemo which bases its social support program on international cooperation, the IU bases its program on an increase in production. Pease added that to achieve the latter the IU government will rely on the efforts of companies and workers so that economic stability will not result in a social conflagration.

12 Peasants, 7 Terrorists Die in Recent Clashes

PY0304010890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 2 Apr (EFE)—The National Police reported today that seven members of a Maoist Shining Path band and 12 peasants died in a clash on 28 March in San Antonio, Huancavelica Department, in the Peruvian central mountain range. Armed with firearms, sticks, and slings, the peasants confronted a group of 60 heavily armed Shining Path terrorists who had started to commit acts of vandalism in San Antonio, a small township. After a one-hour battle, the terrorists decided to leave the area.

Three bodies of peasants were found yesterday in an area known as Ayahuarcuna on the road linking the cities of Huanta and Ayacucho in the southern department of Ayacucho, which is adjacent to Huancavelica Department. Ayahuarcuna, which is located 28 km from Ayacucho, is a Quechuan word meaning "the place of the hanging dead"; it is there that the inquisition used to execute heretics and criminals.

According to drivers using the Ayacucho-Huanta road, a sign reading "this is how informers die" was placed over the bodies of the peasants, who had signs of torture and knife wounds. Thus, it is presumed that they were murdered by Shining Path guerrillas.

Power was restored in recent hours in Ayacucho after a one-week blackout caused by terrorists who knocked

down two high-tension electrical towers. A number of attacks occurred in the past 24 hours in the port of Huacho, 156 km north of Lima, in the prefecture and in a school. The attacks caused only minor damage. The police reported that Shining Path guerrillas knocked down two-high tension electrial towers in the area. The police defused bombs in a movie theater and in the main square of Huancayo, in the Peruvian central mountain range, 415 km southeast of Lima.

Around 30,000 troops of the three branches of the Armed Forces and of the National Police are assigned to provide security in Lima, six days before the 8 April election, which Peruvian subversive movements—especially the Shining Path—are seeking to prevent.

Political violence has caused 19,000 deaths in 10 years of subversive action (more than 700 deaths thus far in 1990) and damages estimated at $17 billion.

Guyana

UN Appointee Concludes Venezuelan Border Talks

FL0404153790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1731 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 3, CANA—U.N.-appointed representative Alister McIntyre, who has been appointed to help resolve the Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute, has completed his first round of official talks with representatives of the Guyana and Venezuela Governments.

McIntyre, who is the vice chancellor of the University of the West Indies, arrived in Guyana late Saturday [31 March] after holding talks in Caracas with Venezuela's Foreign Minister Dr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart.

He left here Sunday [1 April] after holding more than two hours of formal talks with Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson who told CANA on Tuesday [3 April] that McIntyre's visit to the two capitals was made at the invitation of the two governments in keeping with a decision made early February when Figueredo made an official visit to Guyana.

"The talks (with McIntyre) were very useful but these are early days yet," Jackson said.

The Guyana foreign minister said that the talks on the Guyana-Venezuela controversy are expected to continue later this month when he and his Venezuelan colleague visit New York to attend the special session of the United Nations on international economic co-operation.

He said that while arrangements for the talks are still at the preliminary stage, it is possible that McIntyre, who is also expected in New York the same time, will meet with both himself and Figueredo at a joint meeting

Jackson also disclosed that he is likely to pay a return official visit to Caracas shortly at the invitation of his Venezuelan counterpart. The invitation was extended during Figuredo's visit here in February and consideration is now being given to a mutually agreeable date, Jackson said.

Venezuela maintains a claim to five-eighths of Guyana's territory contending that an 1899 arbitral award which determined the boundary between the two countries is null and void.

Because of Venezuela's claim, relations between the two countries deteriorated considerably during the early 1980s but over the last five years there has been a marked improvement.